House caucus votes for Charter change, 126-2

Story on PAGE A2

Believe it, or not: Abu likes Yanks

SAFE ANG MABABAIT

By Julie S. Alipala
PDI Mindanao Bureau

ZAMBOANGA CITY—A leader of the Abu Sayyaf, one of the targets of the United States in its global campaign against ter

BELIEVE/ A5

PHILIPPINE DAILY
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WHAT'S INSIDE

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- **NBI witness tags Llamas killer** METRO /A17
- **Red Bull offers Villanueva P8.1M** SPORTS /A15

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Thursday, January 16, 2003 ★ 42 pages / 4 sections / vol. 18 / no. 39 P15 website: www.inq7.net

New watchdog emerges

Bro. Mike coalition to keep eye on gov't

By Armand N. Nocum

MALACAÑANG and Congress have been served notice. How they are addressing the issues of corruption, economic recovery, poverty alleviation and peace and order will be the subject of close scrutiny by the newly formed Bangon Pilipino Movement (BPM).

At a ceremony marking yesterday's launch of the group touted as a coalition for national unity, organizers also sought a moratorium on the conduct of congressional investigations intended only to prop up the image of certain politicians.

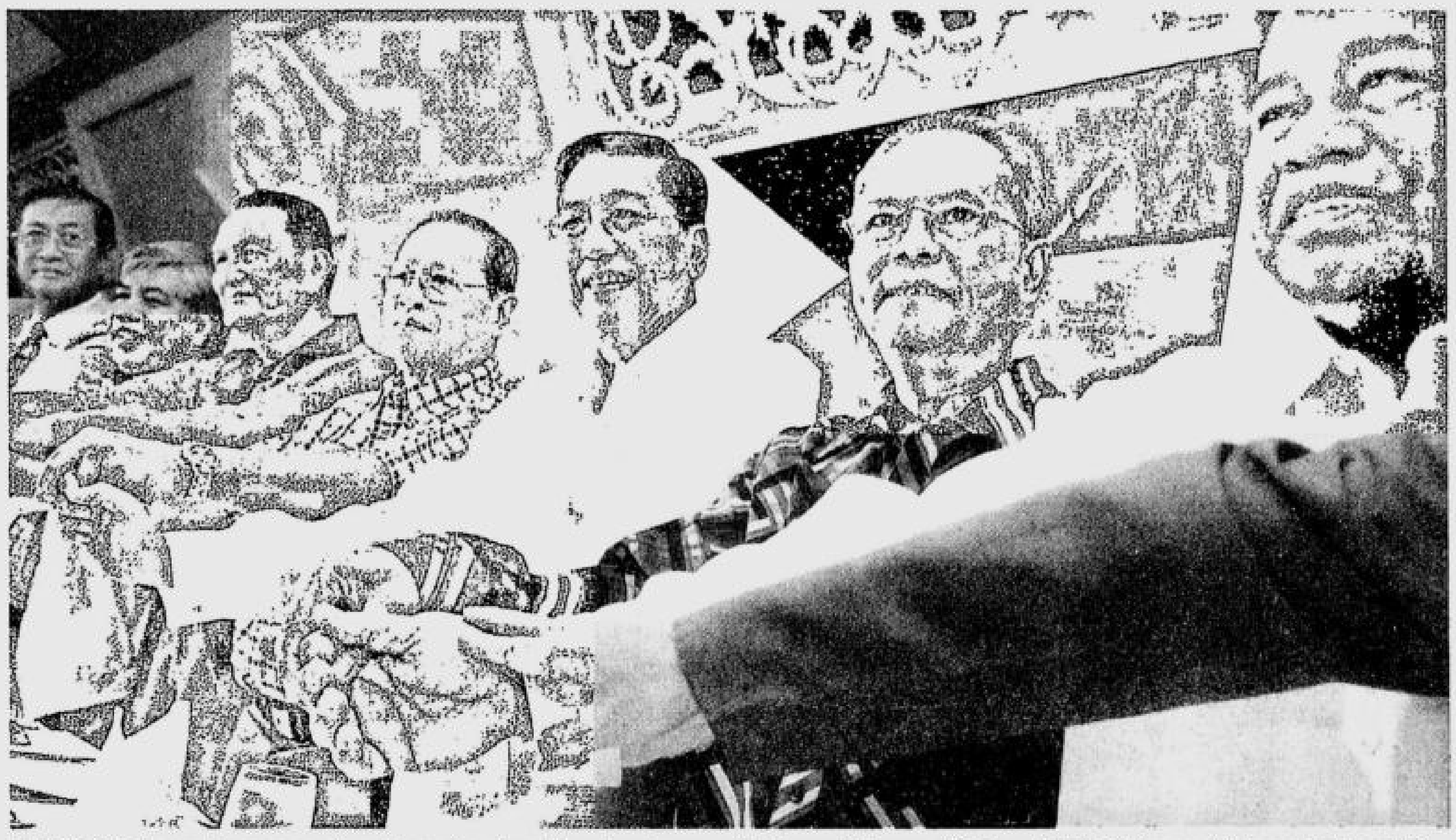
"We will identify the politicians who are doing this ... if we feel they are only doing it for grandstanding," Donald Dee, president of the Employers Confederation of the Philippines (Ecop), told the INQUIRER.

The BPM will publicly show "that what they are doing is wrong"—a warning that applies to both opposition and administration lawmakers, he said.

Dee also said the coalition would come up with a "report card" detailing the progress of its advocated programs, investigations, and reform measures.

Asked if they would take on high-profile cases like those involving the Philippine International Air Terminals Co. Inc. (Piatco) or the Argentine firm Impsa, he said they would "make sure that the courts decide the cases objectively and fairly."

NEW/ A14



STRENGTH in numbers comes from the union of multi-sectoral groups that launch Bangon Filipino at Club Filipino on Wednesday. From left, Vladimir Tupas, Democrito Mendoza, Ramon Abad, Sergio Ortiz-Luis Jr., Bro. Mike Velarde and Miguel Varela. VAL HANDUMON

Opposition senators raring to see MJ in Miami

By Rocky Nazareno and Dona Pazzibugan

OPPOSITION senators are willing to spend their own money and fly to Miami, Florida, just to take extradited Manila Rep. Mark Jimenez's testimony on the alleged $14-million payoff that paved the way for the approval of a power contract won by the Argentinean firm Impsa.

Jimenez is detained in Miami where he is facing criminal charges.

Sen. John Osmeña, chair of the Senate committee on government corporations and public enterprises, said the opposition senators "can always go there (Florida) for a private practice deposition and travel at our own expense."

Osmeña was reacting to a statement by Senate President Franklin Drilon that he was not inclined to approve an official trip by senators to Florida to get Jimenez's deposition because it would be too costly.

Osmeña said that all the opposition senators needed from Drilon was an authority to travel. "This is not a police state where government officials are not free to travel with our personal funds," he said.

"If we go there while (Jimenez) is in jail, we will have to ask the permission of the court. But if we wait, we could take his deposition in his house with court permission," he said.

Osmeña said he had already talked to Jimenez's lawyer and was informed that the Manila congressman was willing to make a deposition on his knowledge of the payoff.

At the hearing conducted by Osmeña's committee on Tuesday, opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson said that the $14-million bribe was paid after the Macapagal administration came to power.

Lacson said Jimenez had told him that "$2 million was given to (then Justice Secretary Hernando) Perez, $4 million to Malacañang, $1 million 'for the

OPPOSITION A14

Legal opinions do not amend contracts

By Raul J. Palabrica

(The author is a member of the Philippine bar who graduated from the UP College of Law.)

ANALYSIS

THE SENATE committee hearing Tuesday on the Impsa contract confused, rather than clarified, the issues on the effect of the Jan. 24, 2001 opinion of then Justice Secretary Hernando Perez. He issued the opinion on the build-rehabilitate-operate-transfer agreement between the Argentinean company and National Power Corp.

The contract is a complex technical and financing arrangement that requires expertise in the financial and investment laws of the Philippines, Argentina and the United States, and not mere general understanding of Philippine laws.

By way of backgrounder, the agreement calls for the construction and rehabilitation of the Caliraya, Botocan and Kalayaan (CBK) electric power plants in Laguna. Napocor awarded the project to Impsa and CBK Company Ltd., a partnership of Impsa and Edison Mission Energy Corp., a US-based company. (The involvement of Edison in the project explains why knowledge of US laws is essential in the preparation of the agreement.)

The contract requires Impsa to invest some $450 million, inclusive of a 15-year interest-free loan of $70,824,000 to Napocor, in the project. Payments to Impsa shall be made depending on its work output and the amount of electricity the three power plants are able to supply to Napocor.

LEGAL/ A14

Honest guard too small to be a policewoman

By Alcuin Papa

A SALUTE to Ma. Fe Sotelo, Festival Mall guard, who wants to become a cop.

A TINY security guard found P500,000 and returned it to the owner—an act that put her head and shoulders above most in these times of economic hardship.

Ma. Fe Sotelo of the Linggus Security Agency was doing her rounds at the Festival Mall in Alabang at around 12:20 a.m. of Jan. 7 when she found a belt bag on the floor of the men's restroom at the basement parking lot. She immediately brought it to the administration office.

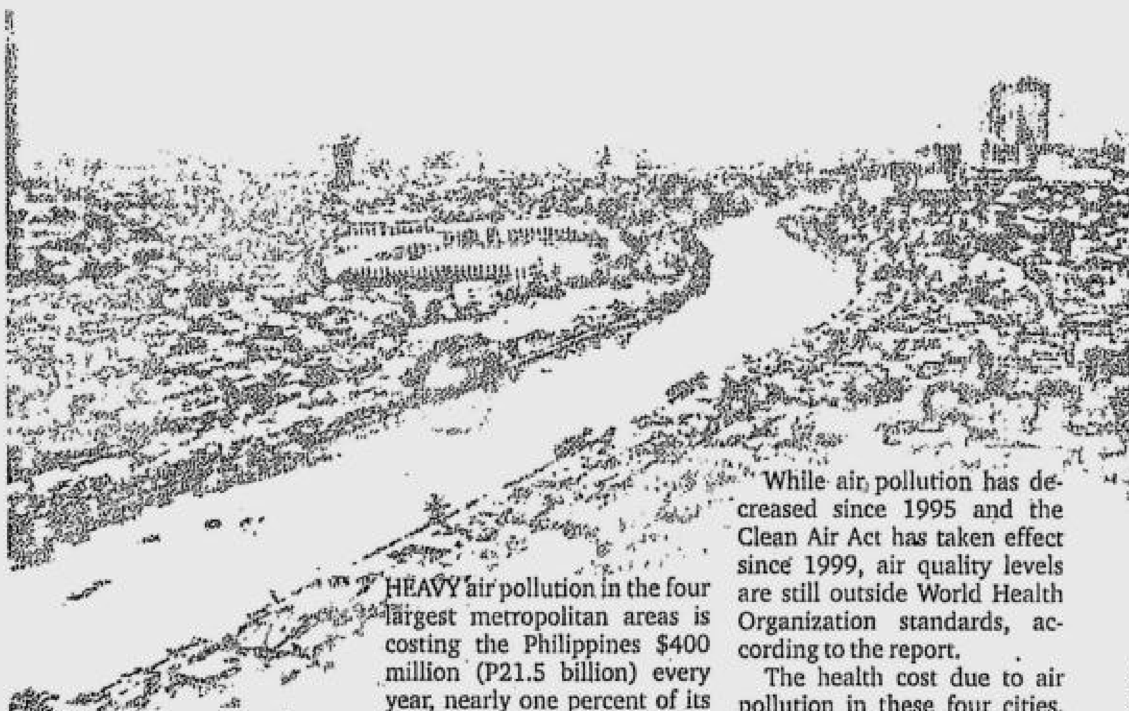
When the bag was opened, Sotelo, her superiors and the other guards present were shocked to find P500,000 in cold cash inside.

At about the same time, Chinese national Wang Chao Wei was in a panic and searching for his bag.

Wang is part of a group of businessmen from the Tiangxi region of China, which is known for its porcelain ware. The group was then having an exhibit of their products at the mall.

HONEST/ A5

Heavy air pollution costs RP ₱21.5B a year



HEALTH-RELATED cost of dirty air takes 0.6 percent of the country's GDP, says a World Bank report. BOY CABRIDO

HEAVY air pollution in the four largest metropolitan areas is costing the Philippines $400 million (P21.5 billion) every year, nearly one percent of its gross domestic product (GDP), the World Bank yesterday said.

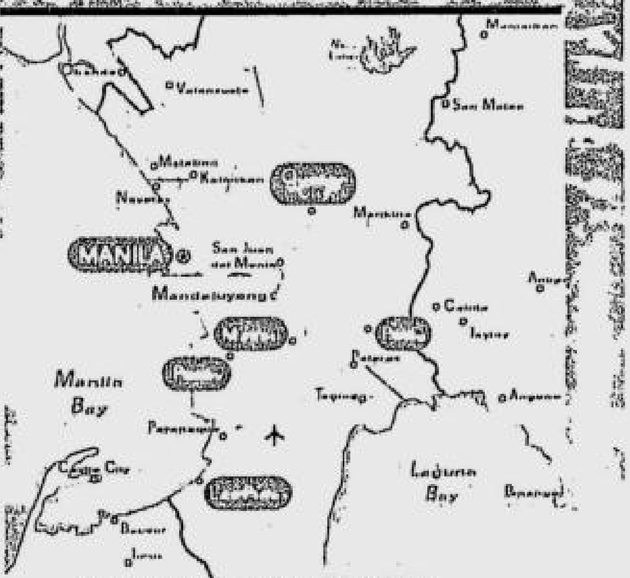
Reducing air pollution in Metro Manila, Baguio, Cebu and Davao should be a priority because the health-related costs of dirty air are taking 0.6 percent of the country's GDP, the World Bank said in a country report.

While air pollution has decreased since 1995 and the Clean Air Act has taken effect since 1999, air quality levels are still outside World Health Organization standards, according to the report.

The health cost due to air pollution in these four cities, which account for more than a quarter of the the country's urban population, "has been estimated to be more than $400 million per year."

Cancer-causing diesel emissions from buses, jeepneys, utility vehicles and trucks are considered the biggest contributor

HEAVY/ A5



AIR QUALITY HOT SPOTS
in Metro Manila

- Concentration HIGH, population HIGH
- Concentration HIGH, population LOW
- Concentration LOW, population HIGH

UN says 25% of child soldiers serve in Asia

UNITED NATIONS—The Security Council is expected to adopt a resolution later this week calling on members to consider sanctions against governments and insurgents that use child soldiers, UN officials yesterday said.

A recent study of the United Nations Children's Fund estimated that a quarter of the world's 300,000 child soldiers were serving in the Philippines and other parts of the Asia-Pacific region. The Unicef study included interviews with former child combatants of the communist New People's Army and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

Council members welcomed a UN list exposing governments and insurgents who use child soldiers during a day-long open debate in which nearly 50 countries spoke out against the exploitation of youngsters in armed conflicts.

Olara Otunnu, the UN special representa-

UN SAYS/ A14

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The Eastern section of the country will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers.
SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/01/16/03

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Gov't sees Naia 3 opening in July

GOVERNMENT officials now expect to open the controversial Ninoy Aquino International Airport terminal 3 (Naia 3) in July.

The passenger terminal would be operational by "July at the earliest date," Naia general manager Edgardo Manda announced yesterday.

The 28-gate terminal, designed to handle 13 million passengers yearly, was to have originally opened last month to ease traffic at two existing terminals, but the opening was moved back because of security issues.

Apart from security features at the terminal required by aviation regulators, a seven-kilometer internal access road to link Terminal 3 to other areas of the airport had yet to be finished, Manda said.

"The access roads are important for the airlines to operate efficiently," he added.

Manda said there was also a need to boost security at the terminal to thwart possible terrorist attacks.

At the Senate, blue ribbon committee chair Joker Arroyo said he was confident that "the wheels of justice will now start to move" following his speech on Monday detailing the panel's finding that the build-operate-transfer Naia 3 project was null and void."

The committee had investigated the government's contract with the Philippine International Air Terminals Co. (Piatco), a Filipino-German consortium which built the terminal, following allegations of anomalies in the contract.

Senate committee on constitutional amendments and revision of codes and laws chair Edgardo Angara, whose committee also rendered a report on the Piatco contract, said he would request that his report also be calendared after the Senate had voted on the blue ribbon committee report.

Angara's committee had upheld the validity of the Piatco contract and recommended that the government and the private proponent renegotiate the contentious provisions of the deal. *AFP and Rocky Nazareno*

'EVE OF VICTORY'

House caucus favors Charter change, 126-2

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

VOTING 126-2 in a caucus yesterday, the House of Representatives unofficially approved the proposal to amend the 1987 Constitution.

Only Bayan Muna Partylist Rep. Crispin Beltran and Camarines Sur Rep. Sulpicio "Cho" Roco, brother of presidential aspirant Raul Roco, voted against Charter change in the two-hour caucus attended by about two-thirds of the 220 House members.

As the mode for amending the Charter, constituent assembly was favored by 121 members as against seven who preferred a constitutional convention. The seven included Representatives Ted Failon, Raul del Mar and Antonio Cuenco.

Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr., who announced the results of the voting, said "a spirited debate and frank exchange of views" marked the caucus.

"We're on the eve of victory," De Venecia said." There is now a unanimous agreement to amend the Constitution and shift to a parliamentary government."

He also reported that the House members "overwhelmingly agreed to elections in 2004," and that "all proposals for No-el (no elections) were shut down."

De Venecia was joined in a press briefing by Western Samar Rep. Eduardo Nachura, chair of the House constitutional amendments committee, Representatives Robert Ace Barbers, Juan Miguel Zubiri, Constantino Jaraula and Augusto Syjuco.

The Speaker said the "vote of confidence" paved the way for the formal opening of plenary deliberations on House Concurrent Resolution 16, which asks the Senate and the House to convene as a constituent assembly to amend the Charter.

He said the House members agreed to pursue the three areas recommended by Nachura's committee—change in the form of government, mechanism for transition and review of economic provisions. He presented Nachura's timetable: constituent assembly convenes in March (if the Senate concurs) and completes its work in three months; referendum by September.

Charter change was also being pushed by 1,000 civil society groups, 1,595 municipal mayors, 130 city mayors, 79 governors and vice governors, board members and barangay officials, De Venecia noted.

Even President Macapagal-Arroyo had "significantly" changed her position from no to neutral, he said, and that "a group of Senators including Edgardo Angara and Robert Barbers" had expressed their agreement. He added that Makati Rep. Agapito "Butz" Aquino, secretary general of the Angara-led LDP, pledged his party's "open support" during the caucus.

But House Minority Leader Carlos Padilla, also of LDP, said most party members were against Charter change, specifically one through a constituent assembly.

Jaraula defended Charter change as being "(no longer) a matter of convenience, but of survival." He insisted that a constitutional convention was too long a route.

Nachura said his committee had gone to "extreme lengths" to determine the people's sentiment on Charter change. He said 10 public hearings plus dialogues, fora and consultations were conducted from Luzon to Mindanao, with a total of 955 organizations in attendance, or as respondents.

4 of 5 Pinoys say Charter needs no amendments

FOUR out of five Filipinos say there's nothing in the Constitution that needs to be amended, but three out of four admit they are not familiar with the Charter.

According to the the latest Social Weather Stations survey, there was no significant grass-roots interest in amending the Constitution among the Filipinos with 79 percent saying that there's no need for any changes in its provisions. Those who mentioned the parliamentary system were only less than one-half of one percent of the general public.

But the survey also revealed an ironic finding—that 75 percent among those polled admitted that they know a little or almost nothing about the Constitution. Twenty percent called their knowledge partial but sufficient, and only four percent revealed that their knowledge are extensive.

Western Samar Rep. Eduardo Nachura belittled the results of the SWS survey and that of another polling body, Pulse Asia.

Nachura questioned the number of respondents polled by the Pulse and SWS, the phrasing and manner of asking the questions.

He said results of the committee's nationwide consultations showed that 85 percent of the people were for Charter change now with only 10 percent against.

The SWS fourth quarter survey was conducted from Nov. 15 to Dec. 2 on a national sample of 1,200 statistically representative adults. It has a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percent at the 95 percent confidence level. *Trina Lagura*

US exec warns RP, Taiwan on piracy

BANGKOK—The United States on Wednesday told the Philippines and Taiwan to take tough action against criminal gangs producing illegal copies of Hollywood movies and fake brand-name goods or risk having trade privileges revoked.

William Lash, US Assistant Secretary of Commerce for market access and compliance, praised Thailand and Malaysia for positive steps to stamp out piracy, but said there had to be more prosecutions of crimes which were costing US firms billions of dollars.

"You are responsible for your own house," Lash said. "People have to go to jail. There has to be more sentencing, more prosecutions."

At a news conference, Lash displayed a fake designer T-shirt from a newly established brand by US hip-hop artist Sean "P. Diddy" Combs and a slew of DVDs of yet-to-be-released pirated Hollywood films with big name stars bought at Thai malls.

He said Taiwan and the Philippines, where there were 280 arrests related to piracy last year but no convictions, would remain on Washington's "priority watch list." "The Philippines has a very serious problem," he said. *Reuters*

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3. Region III	Zambales-Bataan Lending Center NEJ Bldg., San Ramon Highway Dinalupihan, Bataan Tel. No. (047) 481-2818 Nueva Ecija Lending Center LBP Bldg., Gen. Tinio St. cor. Gabaldon St. Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija Tel. No. (044) 463-8355
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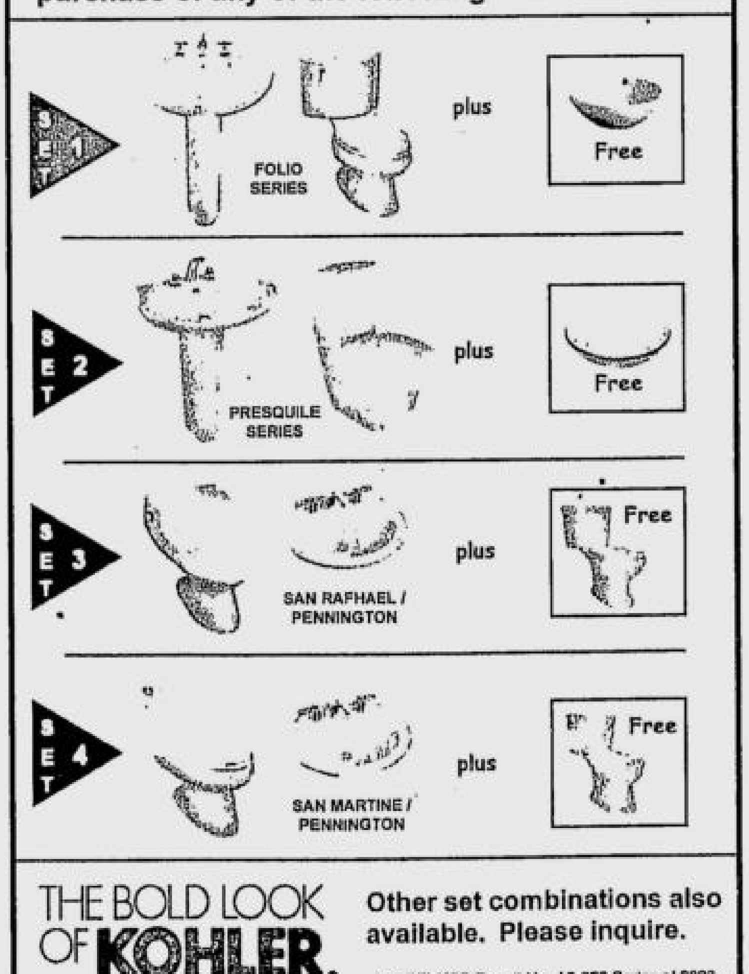

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DON BOSCO VISIT
Rev. Fr. Pascual Chavez Villanueva arrives at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport for a visit in connection with the 50th founding anniversary of the Don Bosco Technical College in Mandaluyong City. The head of the Salesian order worldwide was met at the airport by Fr. Francis Gustilo. ROGER MARGALLO

I'm not that bad, Bayani tells DPWH men

By Blanche Rivera

"I'M not that bad… as long as you work with me. Be honest and true to me, be loyal to me like a friend."

With this assurance, employees of the Department of Public Works and Highways were charmed by the new boss yesterday.

His "tough guy" image momentarily set aside, DPWH Secretary Bayani Fernando formally took over the post from Simeon Datumanong, who is now justice secretary.

No firing

Speaking in Filipino during the turnover ceremonies, Fernando assured the employees that not everything they had heard about him was true. For instance, he said, he was not about to reorganize the department or dismiss anyone "right now."

Glimpse of BF

This was met with applause by some 300 employees who crowded the central office lobby to get a glimpse of "BF."

"I did not bring too many guests from the MMDA with me today (because) I don't want you to think I was replacing you," said Fernando, who is concurrently chair of the Metro Manila Development Authority.

The chief said he would "leave everything as it is, for as long as it is (efficient)." Reorganization would be "dynamic," he said, depending on his subsequent observations.

The DPWH has 36,000 employees nationwide, and the MMDA has around 8,000.

It would not be easy to run a huge agency like the DPWH, Fernando said, but "there's no turning back now."

Image problem

He said he meant to address the department's "image problem"—referring to persistent charges of corruption—by focusing on the engineering aspect of its function, in which he claims expertise. He has 35 years of experience as head of a group of construction firms.

Fernando vowed to keep an eye on the costs and quantification for projects "even at the lowest level, to ensure that no hanky-panky takes place."

Soft spot

He told his amused audience that talks about him being "cruel" were "a little true." But he also confessed there was a soft spot in his heart for those who did their jobs well. "Much depends on you."

Fernando said he hoped the employees would "not block" new ideas that he would like to try on the department operations.

He announced that MMDA's sidewalk-clearing endeavor was set to go nationwide—"from Aparri to Jolo"—because the government had invested "so much money" on roads. "We should be able to make full use of these roads," he said.

The departing Datumanong, with tears in his eyes, said he would have wanted to finish his term and finish the projects he started. But he expressed confidence in his successor's competence.

Former DPWH chiefs Ping de Jesus and Aber Canlas witnessed the turnover, and MMDA undersecretary Cesar Lacuna accompanied Fernando.

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Now in mercury drugs nationwide

'Hot' veggies, meat seized

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE BUREAU of Customs yesterday uncovered and forfeited P20 million worth of vegetables and meat and dairy products that have been "overstaying" at the Port of Manila.

The seized goods were contained in 15 reefer vans, the first of 127 reefer vans whose contents would be examined by the bureau after failure of the consignees to immediately claim the goods.

Customs Commissioner Antonio Bernardo has ordered all Customs examiners and collectors to inspect refrigerated shipments after a series of misdeclared shipments and importation without permit from the Bureau of Plant Industry.

The seized shipment included pork and pork skin from Canada, and vegetables from China, which were earlier declared as pears but found to contain carrots. The chicken imports were declared as yogurt.

"If we have to inspect and seize every suspicious shipment daily, then we will do it if that's the only way to stop these illegal smugglers," Bernardo said in a statement.

Bernardo was joined by Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho, newly appointed Agriculture Secretary Luis Lorenzo and Presidential Security Group chief Gen. Hermogenes Esperon.

Last week, Bernardo, Esperon and Camacho led an inspection that uncovered smuggled rice worth P10 million.

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Tacloban fiesta in QC

THE AN TACLOBANON Foundation Inc. has called on Metro Manila residents who hail from Tacloban and other towns of Leyte as well as other Sto. Niño devotees to attend the Grand Fiesta celebration of the Patron Saint of Tacloban on Saturday at the Quezon City Sports Club at 6 p.m.

This year's hermano mayor, media man Ed Picson, said it will be a festive affair with ballroom dancing, raffle and entertainment numbers. Prominent Taclobanons are expected to attend the event, which starts with a Mass officiated by fellow Leyteño Fr. Rick Dumas, SVD.

Novenas are held nightly at the Letran College until tomorrow. For details, call Mrs. Almeda S. del Rosario at tel. 439-6255.

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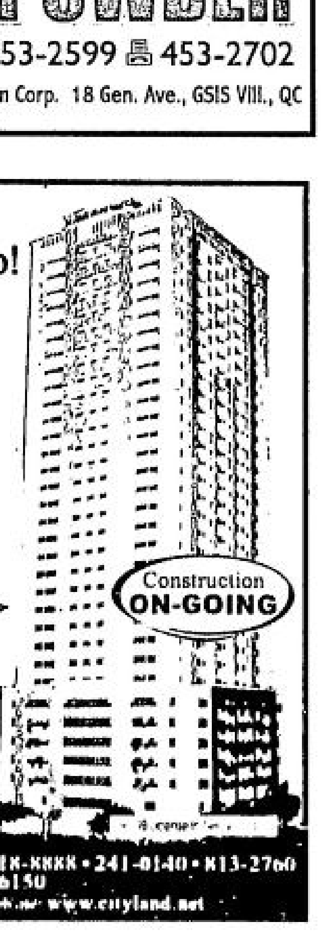

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5 BASIC TRUTHS

about the
CALIRAYA-BOTOKAN-KALAYAAN BUILD-REHABILITATE-OWN-TRANSER (CBK-BROT) PROJECT

So many lies, half-truths and innuendos continue to be peddled in the media about the CBK-BROT project, seemingly with the end in view of completely forestalling this vital energy infrastructure project at the expense of the Filipino people.
Do not be deceived by ill-meaning sectors into rallying behind their own selfish motives and objectives. READ ON and be CORRECTLY INFORMED.

1. Who inherited from whom the CBK-BROT Project otherwise known as the IMPSA deal?

The Ramos Administration initiated and completed the awarding of the project to IMPSA consistent and in compliance with the Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) law.

- IMPSA submitted an unsolicited proposal for the project.
- This was subjected to competitive price challenge by First Private Power Corporation (FPPC) consistent with the B.O.T. law
- IMPSA matched the FPPC offer and as defined by the B.O.T. law was awarded the project.

The Estrada Administration signed and sealed the IMPSA contract and issued the government undertaking

- The Estrada NEDA Board approved the project on October 7, 1998.
- The IMPSA-NPC agreement was signed in Malacañang on November 6, 1998 with none other than President Estrada signing on the contract as a witness
- To fast track implementation, Pres. Estrada issued a "full powers" authorization to the Finance Secretary to provide the government undertaking.
- Several other agreements were signed to fully implement the project

The GMA Administration merely inherited the signed and sealed IMPSA project.

- Rehabilitation work by IMPSA on the CBK power facility was already under way when GMA assumed the presidency in Jan. 2001
- **The DOJ legal opinion was issued to confirm obligations of the government under an existing agreement concluded upon authority of former Pres. Estrada**
- Ordered review of all IPPs including the IMPSA deal

2. Was there a "sovereign guarantee" provision in the IMPSA contract?

- By virtue of a "full powers" authorization executed by President Estrada, Finance Sec. Edgardo Espiritu executed a government undertaking (not a sovereign guarantee) on July 12, 1999 confirming "the obligations of NPC under the agreement and carry the full faith and credit of the Republic of the Philippines ..." **This undertaking was obtained during the Estrada Administration.**

- Only the DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE (DOF) can issue either a government undertaking or sovereign guarantee. The DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (DOJ) merely renders a legal opinion. Therefore, under the GMA administration, DOJ Sec. Hernando Perez could not have issued a sovereign guarantee.

- The legal language of a government undertaking is completely different from that of a sovereign guarantee. **Clearly the IMPSA contract is covered by a government undertaking and not a sovereign guarantee.**

- In a press statement, CBK Power Co. Ltd. (partnership between IMPSA and Edison-Mission Energy) explained that their contract with NPC does not contain a sovereign guarantee.

3. What was the DOJ Sec. Hernando Perez legal opinion all about?

- The Estrada Department of Finance sought the opinion of the Department of Justice on the legality of an agreement between CBK Power Co. Ltd. and its lenders but which was never handed down because they were overtaken by the events of EDSA 2.

- The opinion of the new DOJ Secretary (Perez) merely affirmed the legality of an earlier agreement made by the Estrada administration consenting to the transfer and assignment by CBK Power Co. Ltd. to the project's lenders of the BROT contract as collateral for the loans.

4. Was the Perez opinion "fast-tracked?"

- Considering that the opinion being sought was merely an affirmation of the legality of an earlier agreement made by the Estrada Administration, rendering such an opinion did not require a long and involved process.

- It is the duty of the Justice Department and all government offices for that matter to act with dispatch on matters presented before it for resolution, especially there being no issue or complaint from any of the agencies involved.

5. What is the role of the GMA Administration in the IMPSA deal?

- The present administration is duty-bound to honor, preserve and respect all contracts for that matter unless they are otherwise proven to be defective or grossly disadvantageous to government.

- President GMA ordered a thorough review of all IPPs including the IMPSA contract

- The IPP Review Committee found the IMPSA contract to be technically, legally and financially sound but indicated that it needed to be subjected to policy review.

- Having determined the validity of the contract and since the project was already underway, the GMA administration supported its implementation due to its beneficial effects:
    - √ *Only pumped storage facility in the Philippines*
    - √ *Services major population centers*
    - √ *Can be re-started in 10 minutes after everytime the grid trips*
    - √ *Regulates power fluctuations*
    - √ *Will double capacity to 728 MW of clean, renewable, indigenous power*
    - √ *Will benefit local communities*
    - √ *Will provide employment*

But the policy review will continue independent of the project implementation to determine why Pres. Estrada issued the "full powers" authorization for the government undertaking when such was not contained in the original Terms of Reference

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

RAMOS ADMINISTRATION

1993

Conceptualization

July 2, 1993	President F.V. Ramos invites IMPSA to commission the Kalayaan Project within 3 years.
Nov 26, 1993	IMPSA submits to NPC a BOT proposal for:- Rehabilitate-Operate-Maintain-Manage of Kalayaan Stage I Build for Kalayaan Stage II
Nov 17, 1994	The Legal Counsel of Malacañang ratifies the legal basis of the IMPSA proposal for the project.

1995

March 6, 1995	First MOU signed among NPC & IMPSA for the rehabilitation of Kalayaan I and the construction of Kalayaan II.
July 4, 1995	President Ramos assures President Menem that the CBK contract will be concluded by October 1995.
July 31, 1995	NPC submits the IMPSA proposal to NEDA.

1996

Negotiation and approval process

Apr 17, 1996	The CBK project was found by NEDA-ICC to be economically (EIRR of 15.96%) and financially (FIRR of 17.05%) viable. The ICC-CC allowed NPC to proceed with its negotiations with IMPSA for the preparation of the TOR.
May 2, 1996	DOJ Secretary Teofisto T. Guingona, Jr. rendered an opinion that the CBK project does not involve any direct government subsidy or equity and may qualify as an unsolicited proposal under Section 4-A of the Amended BOT Law and Section 11.1 of the IRR. (Opinion No. 62, S. 1996)
July 26, 1996	The NPC Board approves: A) The final terms of IMPSA's proposal B)The TOR for the purpose of setting up the mechanics of the price test
Aug 12, 1996	NPC gets NEDA's approval of the TOR.
Aug 17 & Aug 24, 1996	NPC invites prospective bidders to submit comparative proposals.
Nov 27, 1996	First Private Power Corporation (FPPC) Consortium submits a comparative proposal.

1997

Apr 23, 1997	Opening of the first envelope of Comparative Proposal.
Oct 27, 1997	Opening of the second envelope of Comparative Proposal.
Nov 26, 1997	NPC notifies IMPSA that is given 30 days to match the Comparative Proposal of the FPPC Consortium.
Dec 8, 1997	IMPSA matches the Comparative Proposal.
Dec 15, 1997	FPPC files charges at the Office of the Ombudsman.

1998

Jan 13, 1998	NPC is served with a TRO obtained by FPPC from a Pasig City RTC, under Deogracias Felizardo.
Feb 2, 1998	TRO expires; no injunction was issued whatsoever.
Feb 26, 1998	NP Board approval to start the negotiations with IMPSA.
Mar 23, 1998	Foreign Affairs Secretary Domingo Siazon replied to Argentina that NPC has invited IMPSA for negotiations.
Jun 22 & 27, 1998	NPC Board approves (June 22) and confirms (June 27) award of CBK Contract to IMPSA as a result of the second stage evaluation indicating that FPPC is superior and the subsequent matching exercised by IMPSA.

ESTRADA ADMINISTRATION

July 22, 1998	NPC endorses the CBK-BROT contract to the ICC and NEDA Board for 2nd pass approval in a letter dated July 14, 1998.
Oct 7, 1998	NEDA Board approves the project.
Nov 6, 1998	Contract of the CBK-BROT project is signed. Mr. A. T. Gonzaga signed in behalf of then NPC President Federico Puno while Mr. Francisco Ruben Valenti signed for IMPSA with then President Joseph Ejercito Estrada as witness.
Nov 23, 1998	NP Board thru Resolution No. 98-204 ratified the CBK-BROT Contract. NP Board was then headed by DOE Secretary Mario V. Tiaoqui as Chairman and then NPC President Puno as Vice-Chair.

1999

Post-contract signing

Feb 18, 1999	First Accession Undertaking made between and among NPC, IMPSA and CBK Power Corporation (CPC) whereby the latter was included as a party.
June 17, 1999	Full powers granted by President Joseph Estrada authorizing Secretary Edgardo B. Espiritu to sign, execute and deliver for and in behalf of the Republic of the Philippines (ROP) the Government Undertaking in favor of IMPSA and CBK Power Corporation (CPC).
July 6, 1999	DOJ opinion issued by Secretary Serafin R. Cuevas refrained from rendering an opinion for reasons that the President had already issued full powers to the Secretary of Finance, and the issuance of the Government Undertaking is within the discretionary powers of the Department of Finance. (Opinion No. 50, S 1999).
July 12, 1999	DOF Secretary Edgardo B. Espiritu wrote NPC President Federico Puno explaining the circumstances behind the issuance of the GU. He cited the fact that the Asian economic crisis precipitated a substantial change in circumstances, hence, justifying the issuance of the GU.
July 12, 1999	DOF Secretary Edgardo B. Espiritu issues the Government Undertaking, with prior Full Powers by the President of the Philippines to issue such undertaking. The GU confirms that the obligations of NPC under the BROT Agreement carry the full faith and credit of the ROP and that the ROP will see to it that NPC shall be able to discharge at all times such obligations as they fall due.
Aug 19, 1999	NEDA Board confirms the ICC Cabinet Committee's approval of the BROT agreement.
Sep 14, 1999	Supplemental Agreement between NPC and IMPSA was signed providing for, among others, the extension of the effective date to Dec. 14, 1999 and the rehabilitation of Unit 2, Kalayaan 1 commencing Jan. 8, 2000.

2000

June 28, 2000	DOJ Legal Opinion issued by Secretary of Justice Artemio G. Tuquero states, among others, that the ROP has the full authority and power to enter into the GU and to exercise its rights and perform its obligations thereunder; and such obligations are legal, valid and binding. (Un-numbered opinion).
Sept 20, 2000	A Second Accession Undertaking was signed by the existing coalition of NPC,IMPSA and the CBK Power Corporation with the CBK Power Company Ltd. (CBK). In this undertaking, the latter was joined as a party in order to permit the investment by Edison Mission Energy ("EME") in the project. The Second Accession Undertaking is supplemental to the BROT Agreement and effective on the date when the conditions precedent (under this Undertaking) have been satisfied.
Oct 20, 2000	President Joseph E. Estrada granted then NPC President Federico E. Puno or in his absence, Mr. Gonzaga (then NPC Vice President), to conclude, sign, execute and deliver on behalf of NPC the Second Accession Undertaking. In the same Full Powers document, President Estrada likewise authorized Secretary Jose T. Pardo to conclude, sign and deliver for and in behalf of the ROP the Acknowledgement and Consent of the Republic to the security and other arrangements agreed to by CBK to secure the payment of its obligations to lenders providing financing for the project and to the Second Accession Undertaking.
Dec 18, 2000	DOF Secretary Jose T. Pardo executes the Government Acknowledgement and Consent Agreement (GACA). The GACA states, among others, the following:
	the Government irrevocably consents to the transfer and assignment by CBK of its interest under the GU to the Collateral Agents under the Mortgage, Security and Assignment Agreements of the Omnibus Agreement; and that the Government acknowledges and agrees for the benefit of the Senior Lenders that the Collateral Agents and any permitted assignees and designees thereof shall be entitled to exercise any and all rights of CBK under the GU in accordance with the terms thereof; the Government confirms that the obligations of NPC under the BROT Agreement carry the full faith and credit of the ROP and that the ROP will see to it that NPC shall be able to discharge at all times such obligations as they fall due; and for the avoidance of doubt, it is understood that nothing in this letter agreement shall be construed so as to convert the Government Undertaking to a direct guarantee by the Government of the obligations of CBK to the lenders under the Omnibus Agreement.

2001

Jan 12, 2001	President Joseph Estrada issues a revised Full Powers authorizing Secretary Jose T. Pardo to conclude, sign, and deliver for and on behalf of the Republic of the Philippines (ROP) the GACA in connection with the Government Undertaking dated July 12, 1999 issued by former Secretary of Finance Edgardo B. Espiritu.
Jan 17, 2001	Secretary of Finance Jose T. Pardo requested for a DOJ Opinion addressed to Justice Artemio G. Tuquero on the legality of the DOF issuance of the GACA. Specifically, among others:· Whether the Republic of the Philippines has the full authority and power to enter into the GACA and to exercise its rights and perform its obligations thereunder and all actions required to authorize the execution by the Republic of the Philippines of the GACA and the performance by it of its obligations; and Whether the obligations expressed to be assumed by the Republic of the Philippines in the GACA are, under the laws of the Republic legal, valid, and binding obligations.

ARROYO ADMINISTRATION

Jan 24, 2001	Acting DOJ Secretary Hernando B. Perez signs the DOJ opinion stating, among others:
	The Republic of the Philippines has the full authority and power to enter into the GACA and to exercise its rights and perform its obligations thereunder and all actions required to authorize the execution by the Republic of the Philippines of the GACA and the performance by it of its obligations;The obligations expressed to be assumed by the Republic of the Philippines in the GACA are, under the laws of the Republic are legal, valid, and binding obligations; The Republic of the Philippines has validly and effectively consented to the transfer and assignment to the lenders of all of CBK's rights under the Government Undertaking.
June 8, 2001	R.A. No. 9136 or the EPIRA was signed into law. Section 68 of R.A. 68 mandated an Inter-Agency Committee (IAC) to review IPP contracts.
July 18, 2001	President Arroyo issued Administrative Order no. 14 directing the Inter-Agency Committee to review the contracts entered into by Government with Independent Power Producers (IPP Contracts) and submit periodic reports and its findings along with its recommendations to the President.
July 3, 2002	The IAC on IPP Contracts review presented its findings and recommendations to President Arroyo on 35 contracts of NPC with IPPs which included the CBK-BROT contract. The CBK contract was found to be valid and with the lowest levelized cost of electricity among the seven (7) IPP hydro plants. The IAC recommended that remedial policy measures be undertaken. President Arroyo directed *Action Panels* to undertake appropriate measures in line with the recommendations of the IAC. The *Action Panel* composed of NEDA and DOJ was tasked to review the recommendations on CBK-BROT contract.
July 10, 2002	The NP Board authorized the payment of capital recovery fees subject to certain conditions including the conduct of a compliance audit by an independent party in order to have basis for a certification of completion of work of Unit I of the Plant.
July 25, 2002	Mentec, the independent audit firm from New Zealand, submitted its Final Report to NPC.
Oct 25, 2002	The Secretary of Finance, as Chair of the IAC on IPP Contracts Review, tasked the Working Group to revisit the CBK- BROT contract and amendments in light of the Mentec Report and recent events and transactions at NPC in relation to said contract.

2003

Jan 7, 2003	The Working Group of the IAC on IPP Contracts Review, based on its evaluation of impact of the change of date for the commencement of payments to CBK, agreed to recommend to the IAC Principals and the concerned *Action Panel* to negotiate with CBK Consortium to keep the levelized cost of electricity as proposed by way of effecting changes in the terms of payments by NPC. The Working Group is finalizing its report and recommendations.

ADVT.

Heavy air pollution costs RP ₱21.5B a year

From page A1

to urban air pollution. Despite campaigns and programs against smoke-belching, buses and utility vehicles emitting visible smoke remain a common sight in Metro Manila and other urban centers.

The situation is not helped by the fact that "most industrial sources are located in Metro Manila," the report added.

"Polluted air knows no barriers and makes no class distinctions—while affecting the poor disproportionately," said World Bank country official Robert Vance Pulley.

Analyses, no action

According to a perception survey in 2001, about 72 percent of Metro Manilans said they were alarmed by the air pollution. The same survey showed that 73 percent were not aware about government efforts in dealing with the problem.

The report said that the amount of time government agencies and nongovernment organizations had spent in debates and discussions "reflected a general failure to convert analyses into effective action."

The report also noted that "only a patchy network of air quality monitoring stations provides a limited information on pollution levels."

"Although there is no single magic formula to address this problem, determined government policy actions backed by resources and strong public support can yield significant results, as already shown by neighboring countries," Pulley said.

The World Bank said it would cost $500 million to implement the Clean Air Act between 2000 and 2010, but it added the benefits would far exceed these costs. *(See related story in Business, Page B3.)*

The law has reduced the polluting content of oil products sold in the country.

The World Bank said the government's next priorities should be to promote a shift to four-stroke engines in motorcycles, require catalytic converters in gasoline vehicles, improve vehicle maintenance, reduce sulfur in diesel fuel, enforce a ban on waste burning, and increase public involvement. *AFP*

THE HONESTY of security guard Maria Fe Sotelo at the Festival Mall is commended and awarded by the mall's VP Mike Gotianum (left) and mall security chief, retired Gen. Emiliano Templo.

ERIK ARAZAS

Honest guard too small …

From page A1

After a futile search, Wang reported to the mall's administrators that he had left his bag at the restroom and could not find it.

After confirming ownership, the administrators turned over the bag and its contents to Wang.

A grateful Wang offered a reward to Sotelo, who turned it down. But she accepted a porcelain flower vase as a gift.

"It is my first time in the Philippines and I am thinking of coming back. My impression of the people here is better than of the people in my own country," Wang said through an interpreter.

Sotelo, a native of Saraga, Iloilo, told reporters yesterday that she did not think twice about returning the money.

"I don't need it and I don't regret returning it," she said.

Sotelo came to Manila in August to look for work after graduating with a degree in criminology from the University of Iloilo.

But her height (barely five feet) and age (32), got in the way of her dream of becoming a police officer.

She told the INQUIRER that she had certain qualms about being a security guard because all her four siblings were professionals. Being the youngest, she felt that more was expected from her.

No guilt

But Sotelo's singular act showed that she had exceeded most expectations.

"The feeling of doing something honest is different. With it, I don't feel guilty that I took another person's money," she said.

Jonathan Gimeno, Sotelo's close friend and fellow guard, described her as a shy but kind person.

"She will not talk to you unless you talk to her. And she works very hard," he told the INQUIRER.

Before Sotelo found Wang's bag, there was talk that the mall would not renew Linggus' contract. Thus, the agency's 145 guards posted there were anxious that they would be jobless by next month.

"But what she did helped us all. It might persuade the mall administrators to eventually renew our contract," Gimeno said.

Mike Gotianun, vice president of the Filinvest Development Corp., which runs the mall, expressed his appreciation for Sotelo's act: "We're glad that in this country, there are still good examples of honesty. A humble person like her doing something like this is an encouragement."

At a commendation ceremony yesterday, Linggus handed Sotelo a cash reward of P5,000.

Sotelo said she would use part of the the money to treat her fellow guards to a blowout.

"I'm happy for the commendation," she said. "But my work continues."

Believe it, or not …

From page A1

rorism, now has kind words for American soldiers.

"They need not worry about security anymore. They're welcome (in Basilan) so long as they don't commit any hanky-panky," said Jose Ramirez, alias Hamsiraji Sali, in a telephone interview.

Ramirez also said there was no need for American soldiers to be wary of attacks by the Abu Sayyaf because, he added, the bandits were not "interested" in terrorism anymore.

The United States still considers the Abu Sayyaf a threat, Col. Douglas Lengenfelder, commander of the Joint Special Operation Task Force Philippines, earlier told the INQUIRER. The bandit group has been responsible for a series of kidnappings over the past several years, including the seizure of Americans Martin and Grace Burnham, and Jeffrey Schilling in 2001.

Ramirez's change of heart came after several US humanitarian projects were undertaken in Basilan last year after the "Balikatan" joint military exercises between American and Filipino soldiers that included forays into Abu Sayyaf strongholds in the island-province.

"What the Americans did was great. We now have good roads and potable water. The Americans were able to give us projects, unlike our local officials who are corrupt," Ramirez said.

The US soldiers were involved in some $6 million worth of infrastructure projects, constructing a 79.2-kilometer road, four bridges, water wells and four new helicopter landing zones, and rehabilitated two boat ports and the Basilan runway.

They also donated some $60,000 worth of medical supplies.

If price is right

Ramirez said some government officials who were negotiating for his surrender had convinced him to turn his back on terrorism.

"I really wanted to change. I hope this is for good," he said in Filipino.

The bandit leader even offered to lead authorities to the hideouts of his comrades in exchange for money. "If the price is right, why not?" he said.

He said he was willing to help the military and police capture Abu Sayyaf leaders Khaddafy Janjalani, Isnilon Hapilon and Antel Jainal Sali, alias Abu Sulaiman.

But Lt. Gen. Narciso Abaya, Southern Command chief, won't take Ramirez's offer seriously and laughed after being told about it.

"We are not going to negotiate with him in exchange for anything. The only recourse for him is to surrender unconditionally," Abaya said.

Ramirez, who has standing warrants for his arrest, said surrender was out of the question. He said he would rather spend his life as a fugitive although he said he would try to prevent other Abu Sayyaf members from launching terrorist attacks.

Escape?

But he also said he could not easily locate his comrades as they were no longer in Basilan and could be "already out of the country."

Ramirez said he got word from his contacts in Zamboanga and Sulu last month that the three Abu Sayyaf leaders had slipped out of the country through Tawi-tawi in a speedboat.

"They passed through Malaysia, then to Indonesia," he said.

Philippine military officials still would not take Ramirez's word.

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EUGENIA D. APOSTOL *Founding Chairman*
INQUIRER
Vol. 18 No. 39
ISSN 0116-2642

OPINION

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph **website:** http://www.inq7.net

THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at
•Chino Roces Ave corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
•P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
•Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
•Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 •Advertising 897-4807
•Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 / 528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.
•100% soy ink•

Publisher **ISAGANI YAMBOT**
Editor in Chief **LETTY JIMENEZ-MAGSANOC**
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Burlesque

EDITORIAL

THE SENATE was transformed into a burlesque the other day when the deposed president, Joseph Estrada, testified at a hearing on the Impsa contract.

Estrada, a former senator, was in his element at the Senate. He used the hearing conducted by the committee on corporations and government enterprises as a platform to launch a wide-ranging barrage of charges against the Macapagal administration, including the concluding opinion signed by former Justice Secretary Hernando Perez, as well as to defend his own administration's approval of the Impsa contract.

The most noteworthy outcome of the testimony was that Estrada revealed nothing new, except his own inconsistency. He said at the hearing that the $14-million "offer" made by his former friend Mark Jimenez in 1999 to facilitate the approval of the controversial Caliraya-Botocan-Kalayaan power project was not a bribe but a "donation." This contradicted an earlier statement he had given to the INQUIRER, saying, "I was then offered a $14-million bribe," and "I will tell the rest of the story once I'm allowed to testify at the Senate."

During his testimony, Estrada could not give a direct answer when asked why he did not have Jimenez arrested for attempted bribery. He also accused Perez of having issued an opinion two days into the new administration to consummate the contract with a "sovereign guarantee" by which the government allegedly would assume the financial obligations of Impsa in case of default. Perez quickly contradicted this by saying that his opinion was not a "sovereign guarantee" and that it merely reflected the opinion of Estrada's justice secretary.

What emerged from the hearing is that the question of whether or not there is a sovereign guarantee is a matter of interpretation. What is undeniable is that the Impsa deal went through three administrations before it was concluded: those of Fidel Ramos, Joseph Estrada and Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. But what Estrada gave at the hearing was not any new information that would have justified his appearance. All the documents concerning the contract have been disclosed to the press repeatedly.

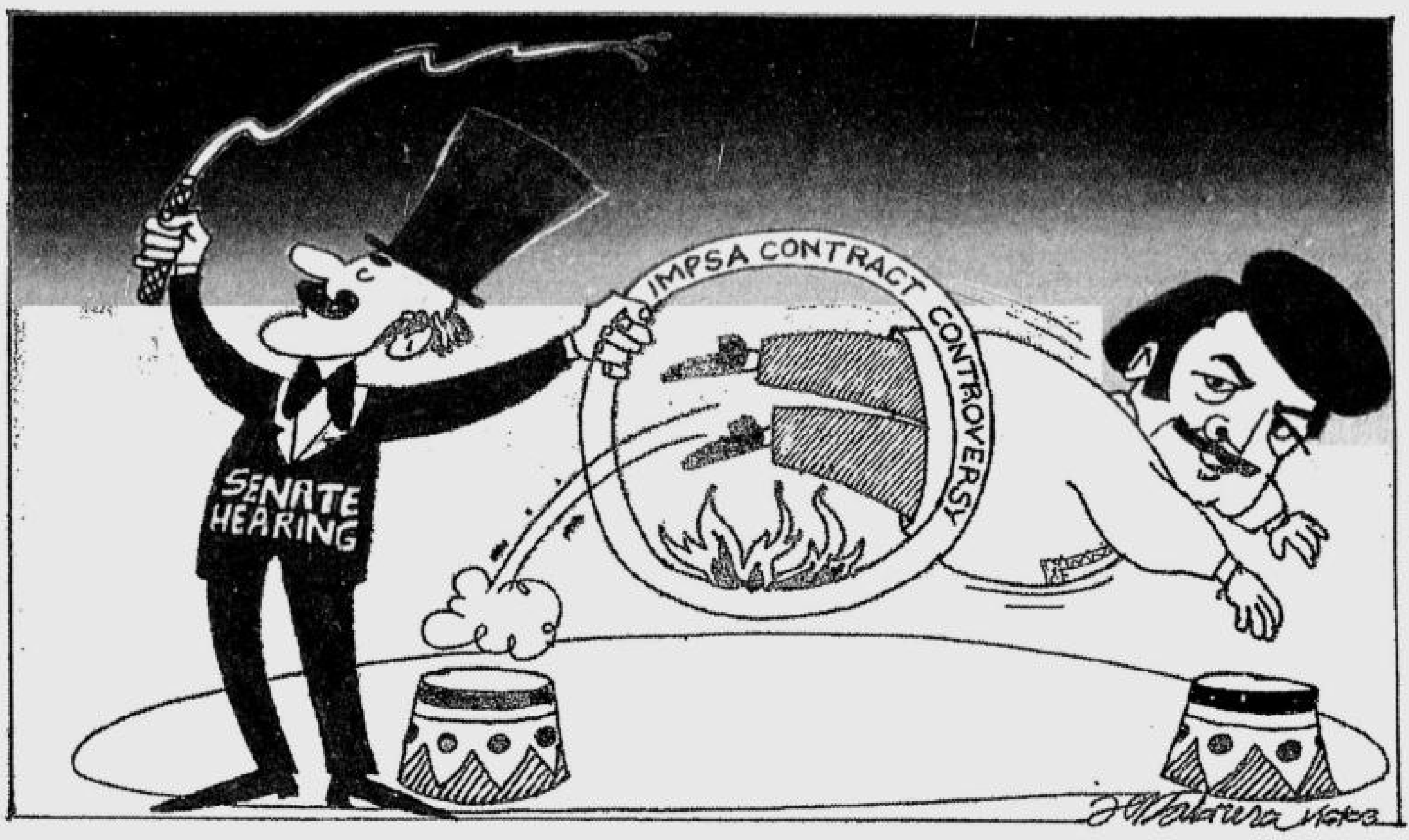
What's new was that Estrada engaged his former police chief and crony, Sen. Panfilo Lacson, in a farce by passing on to the senator the task of amplifying on the allegations, based on hearsay from a polluted source, Rep. Mark Jimenez, that the $14-million alleged bribe was distributed among Perez, Malacañang, "the boys" (who were not identified) and some other parties. As usual Lacson did not produce any evidence to support his allegations, preferring instead to just pollute the atmosphere with poisonous suspicion.

One has to search in vain for confirmation that Estrada's testimony produced information "in aid of legislation," a phrase invoked by senators when they like to play investigators and detectives rather than perform their main function, which is crafting good legislation. From whatever angle one looks at Estrada's testimony, its only result was to obfuscate issues.

The hearing, however, provided Estrada with an opportunity to return to the limelight, after having been deprived of a stage where he can exhibit his populist political antics on account of his detention. But on the stage provided by the Senate, Estrada cut a pathetic figure. He not only wasted the time of the Senate but he also muddled the issues. He simply cavorted with his Senate colleagues who must have missed his ham acting.

Nothing can be more tragic for an ex-actor, who has seen better days, than to go back to the stage in the hope of reclaiming the applause of yesteryears. The poignancy of this comeback of a has-been against a new backdrop and with new props and the altered demands of the audience was best captured by Charlie Chaplin in the movie "Limelight." Estrada went back to the limelight in a new political environment in which scandal-mongering is less appreciated and consensus-seeking on a legislative agenda is getting higher priority and acquiring acute urgency. The critical need of this new political environment is to get things done before the nation is irrevocably left behind.

In this changed environment, the Senate hosted a slapstick and Estrada found himself sadly out of place.



Solon: Why we need a parliamentary system

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

I HAD a strange visitor yesterday, a congressman. He had read my series of anti-Charter change columns and he said he had been sent by his colleagues to persuade me to change my tune.

"Why do you want to change the Constitution?" I asked him.

"So we can change from presidential to a parliamentary system of government," he answered.

"Why do you want to change into a parliamentary system?"

"Because we have a weak President. *Pandak na nga, mahina pa.*"

"That's only natural," I said. *"Maliit, kaya mahina."*

"But we need a strong President."

"You need a strong President, elect a weightlifter," I said.

He wasn't fazed. "But under a presidential system, a weightlifter has no chance of winning a presidential election. Only actors, dwarfs and *trapos* win."

"So?"

"So we change to a parliamentary system where any Tom, Dick and Harry can be elected member of parliament and in turn be elected prime minister by his colleagues."

"And weightlifters," I offered.

"And weightlifters," he agreed.

"How about sidewalk vendors, squatters and drivers?"

"Yes, them too. After all, they're already telling the government what to do. Did you hear them tell the President whom to appoint as MMDA chairman?"

"I sure did," I replied. "But why do you prefer a parliamentary system?"

"Because it is cheaper to be a candidate for prime minister. Under a presidential system, he has to campaign nationwide. That's very expensive. Under a parliamentary system, he has to buy, er, campaign only for the votes of 200 or so MPs. That's cheaper."

"Not necessarily," I objected. "One vote there can cost tens of millions of pesos. Multiply that at least 200 times and that's still a lot."

"It's still cheaper. Besides, once he becomes prime minister, he can get it all back from the taxpayers."

"Isn't that what you all have been doing in a presidential system?" I asked.

"Foul *naman 'yan*," he protested. "It may be true, but it's still foul. *Walang ganyanan.*"

"I'm sorry," I said, "but that's what the people believe."

"My answer there is the standard reply of congressmen when caught: 'Prove it!'"

"But will a parliamentary system, besides solving your problems, also solve the nation's problems?"

"Of course."

"How?"

"Well, for one thing, it will solve our budget deficits. The Senate will be abolished. So we save the budget for the Senate. Then, because Cabinet members will also come from the ranks of the MPs, we also save the budgets of the Cabinet secretaries."

"But what about a bigger pork barrel for members of parliament?"

"Foul *na naman*. We have no more pork barrel. You won't find any 'pork barrel' in the budget."

"They go under such names as Countrywide Development Fund, etc."

"Right. So we're not lying when we insist that we have no pork barrel."

"But how will a parliamentary system solve our economic problems?" I insisted.

"Believe me, they will be solved. The PM has to solve them or else we will pass a vote of no confidence and he will have to step down and we will have new elections," he replied.

"Isn't that bad for the nation? Frequent elections are expensive to the taxpayers."

"But good for us MPs. *Bago na namang bilihan, er, botohan.*"

"How about peace and order?"

"The parliamentary system will solve that, too. Our police force can be tremendously expanded. The relatives, protégés, followers and friends of each individual MP can be appointed to the police force. That will automatically solve the unemployment problem, too, *di ba.*"

"How about graft and corruption?"

"*Mayroon ba tayong* graft and corruption? *Wala akong alam.*"

"Are you blind and deaf? Haven't you heard of all the accusations of graft and corruption?"

"All speculations. Has anybody ever been convicted of graft and corruption? Again, my answer there is: 'Prove it!'"

"How about the regional economic crisis? Will a parliamentary system solve that, too?"

"A parliamentary system can solve everything, including the world economic crisis."

"How?"

"*Saka na 'yon.* Our first priority is to elect a prime minister first. We'll attend to the other problems later."

"How about the impending war in Iraq?" I asked.

"*Alam mo*, if we only have a parliamentary system, the war in Iraq and in North Korea can be avoided," the congressman said.

"Again, how?"

"I don't know yet. But just having a parliamentary system will solve everything."

"Who is your candidate for prime minister?"

"*Sino pa, di ang* mastermind *ng* Cha-cha, *ang* boss *ko.*"

"*Sino ba ang* boss *mo?*"

"*Sino ba ang walang pag-asang manalo* for President?"

Stupid

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

MY heart goes out to the family of Jose Luis Llamas, the 26-year-old Ateneo law graduate who finished among the top 25 in his batch and was a strong bet to do well in the bar exams. He had already taken the exams, and while waiting for the results, he had applied for a teaching job in La Salle. To say that he was driven is an understatement. To say that he belonged to this country's best and brightest and promised to be one of its shining lights is superfluous.

Llamas will never know how he did in the bar exams, he will never teach in La Salle, he will never be a shining light of his country. That is so because he was gunned down on Taft Avenue last week by a man he did not know. He got into a heated argument with this man after he bumped his motorcycle. In the middle of the argument, the man pulled out a gun from his motorcycle and shot Llamas three times. Twice in the head and once in the body. He never made it to the hospital alive.

Frankly, I do not know why we have not risen in outrage over this atrocity. Or indeed over the many murders that have arisen from traffic altercations. This is not the first time this has happened, nor will it be the last. *"Minalas,"* I've heard some people say with a shrug of the shoulders. Have we gotten so inured to death and violence that we tend to dismiss atrocities in this way? You get hit by lightning while walking to school on a cloudy day, you are *malas*. You drown from a flood one fine day, which was what happened to 3,000 residents of Ormoc many years ago, you are *malas*. You get bitten by a snake while you are climbing a mountain, you are *malas*.

You are shot to death by someone over a minor traffic accident, you are not *malas*. You are the victim of an unconscionable villainy.

Frankly, too, I cannot understand why the cold-blooded murder of Llamas—well, not so cold, it was in the heat of argument—hasn't drawn attention again to a bane Nandy Pacheco has been shouting himself hoarse in denouncing over the years: the proliferation of guns in this country.

The usual justification for owning and toting guns that the pro-gun group uses is that gun users are perfectly responsible and disciplined individuals who will never use their guns indiscriminately. That gun users undergo strict training before they get their licenses.

That justification is stupid. At the very least, it isn't true at all. Its easiest refutation is the story that appeared in the papers some years ago about a blind man getting a gun license from the PNP. For the strangest reason, the man's application was approved, which raised the question of who was really blind, the applicant or the approving officer. The man was already happily leaving the station when the anomaly was spotted by eagle-eyed reporters who brought it to the attention of the world. Asked to explain how that ludicrous thing came to pass, the authorities could only draw a blank (answer) and point their (trigger) fingers at one another.

What makes the justification even more stupid is that it overlooks something extremely obvious, which is that the most disciplined and responsible individual will always be stoked to sudden anger, or temporary insanity, by the many oppressions posed by life in Metro Manila. Not the least of them traffic conditions, which give rise to road rage. If road rage is lethal in other countries, it should be even more so here.

That is so because we have an extremely personalistic and macho culture. In the United States, you can have shouting matches in a bar and go home with nothing worse than a sore throat. Here, insults are not so easily forgotten or forgiven. The culture is macho and demands reprisal. A shouting match in a bar will inevitably end up with someone pulling a knife or a gun. Look at what happened in a night spot in Cotabato: four people dead simply because one woman stepped on another woman's toes. Literally, not figuratively. Rising up to defend a spurious honor is demanded by the culture itself. That is how road rage inevitably ends up in mayhem in this country.

The pro-gun people say guns do not kill, people do. That's absolute hogwash. If Rolito Go had not been carrying a gun when he met Eldon Maguan, the latter would still be alive today. If that man who shot Llamas had not been carrying a gun when he met Llamas, Llamas would still be alive today. At the very worst, they would have engaged in fisticuffs, which would have been broken up by peacemakers. Or since peacemakers are as rare as honest officials in this country, the axiom being that peacemakers are the first to get knifed to death, they could have ended just pummeling each other all the way to the hospital.

The characteristic reaction of those who surrender themselves, or are caught, after the shooting is remorse. Or at least a dawning of reality, that they have taken a life and must pay for it with part of theirs. If only they had not been having a bad day that day. If only they had not been insulted to death. If only they had not been stoked to sudden fury by the oppressiveness of it all.

Well, there is one more "if" there, the one that is rarely articulated but is the true source of the bane: If only they had not been carrying guns:

Had that been the case, then all the bad day, the insults and the sense of oppression would not have led to nothing. They would have gone home, gotten drunk and forgotten everything the next day. Maguan would still be alive today, Llamas would still be alive today, the many victims of this stupidity would still be alive today.

To quote Bob Dylan, how many deaths will it take till we know that too many people have died? All in the name of the right to own guns.

***

Comments to dequiros@vasia.com

Senate should let Perez testify on Impsa

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

DURING his much-ballyhooed testimony before the Senate committee on government corporations and public enterprises, chaired by Sen. John Osmeña, former President Joseph Estrada said nothing new. He said he turned down the alleged $14 million offer or bribe from Impsa, coursed through his former crony, the extradited Mark Jimenez, because he did not believe in giving a sovereign guarantee to back up Impsa's efforts to raise funds for its contract with the RP government. Instead of jailing Jimenez on attempted bribery, however, Estrada appointed him as his adviser on Latin American affairs.

* * *

The former President alleged that it was the new Macapagal administration that succumbed to that bribe, but he left the alleged details to his ally, Sen. Ping Lacson, to spell out. Lacson alleged that the Palace, then Justice Secretary Hernando Perez and the "usual boys" partook of $7 million in bribes. (He did not say what happened to the other $7 million. Did Jimenez pocket it?) The problem with Lacson's allegation is that he presented no solid evidence. In fact, the more is said about the issue, the more clouded it becomes.

* * *

Anyone can make allegations, but proving them is another thing. Recall that Perez was accused by Jimenez of receiving $2 million in return for not pursuing his extradition case. This contradicted Lacson's claim that the bribe was for Perez's hurried facilitation of the sovereign guarantee for Impsa. But as Perez's lawyer, Agnes Devanadera, pointed out, the Trade and Commerce Bank in Uruguay where MJ said his bribe money originated from his personal account does not exist. Now Lacson is demanding that the administration open the Coutts Bank account where the bribe supposedly found its way to Perez's account. But if the source cannot be established, how can the alleged deposit be true?

These accusations, including those being leveled at the Palace now, ought to be backed by evidence. The public cannot be expected to believe unsupported assertions.

* * *

The Senate committee summoned Estrada who wants to make more appearances since he gets a lot of publicity mileage from them. But the man who should appear there—and he wants to, because he has to clear his name even after his resignation from his post—is Hernando Perez. But he's not being summoned to testify. Perez's testimony is crucial, as this is really the crux of the Impsa controversy.

Lacson claims that Perez received $2 million for issuing a sovereign guarantee to Impsa. But Perez says he did not issue such a guarantee. He points out that there's a great deal of confusion between confirming an obligation under a "sovereign guarantee" and a "government undertaking." The latter, said Perez, was what was given by Estrada's finance secretary, Jose Pardo, to Impsa and which the Macapagal administration merely "reiterated." Perez says a sovereign guarantee cannot just be inserted into the Impsa agreement, as this calls for a separate document with its own language. Estrada confused the two terms during his testimony, Perez adds.

* * *

I queried Justice Undersecretary Merceditas Gutierrez about this, and she pointed out that only the secretary of finance can issue a sovereign guarantee after being authorized by the President. Gutierrez also stressed that there is a standard language for this guarantee embodied in government contracts, and this is not in the Impsa contract.

If Erap is confused over the two terms, so is the public. The Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism, in an article published in the Star, said Finance Secretary Edgardo Espiritu signed a "performance undertaking" with Impsa for the Estrada administration that was "a thinly worded guarantee." Because this issue is so crucial and allegations are flying thick and fast about bribes, the Osmeña committee ought to summon the man at the center of the controversy, Perez himself, so that he will have the proper forum to explain this distinction. The senators should be committed to ferreting out the whole truth, and not just tidbits that are merely politically juicy.

* * *

Into the *malabo* category also fall the recent actuations of the government vis-à-vis Piatco. Over a month ago, the Supreme Court ordered the two parties to sit down and try to iron out the kinks in their relationship. Piatco has tried to reach out to the government, but up to now it has not indicated a willingness to talk. The Supreme Court deadline has expired and being awaited is its ruling on the validity of the Piatco contract. What seems obvious is that the government just wants to run Piatco to the ground so as to force it to raise the white flag (every day of delay in opening the Naia 3 costs Piatco plenty).

* * *

Another interesting angle is that Asian Emerging Dragon Corp. (AEDC) which lost to Piatco in the bidding for the Naia 3 project, with Lucio Tan and six other taipans as investors, filed a manifestation with the Supreme Court with a prayer for inhibition of the law firm Romulo Mabanta, which has been representing Piatco, for alleged conflict of interest. AEDC claims that the law firm billed AEDC for work done for the long-term lenders that were willing to extend financing to AEDC for Naia 3. The firm, however, denies that it had such an arrangement since it was the long-term lenders that passed the legal fees on to AEDC. It's interesting to note that this manifestation for inhibition was filed even if AEDC is not a party to any of the petitions in the Supreme Court related to the Piatco contracts. Observers see this as an indication that AEDC remains as interested as ever in getting the Naia 3 contract should the contract with Piatco be declared null and void ab initio by the Supreme Court.

Serving and living

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

WHEN she was 11 years old, Sharon Cuneta-Pangilinan told the guests at the launching of the book "I Can Serve" yesterday, her mother was diagnosed with breast cancer and underwent a mastectomy.

"I remember that after school each day while my mother was in the hospital, I would rush to the hospital and volunteer to be the reader during the Mass," Sharon recalled. "In my innocent mind, I thought that if I served the Lord as best as I could, then He would grant my prayer and not take my mother from me. And He did spare her."

Having been "touched by cancer" in her youth, Sharon said she felt so "unworthy" being in the same room as so many cancer survivors, most of them women, who had come out to mark the publication of the second edition of "I Can Serve." The book is a slim volume that offers a network of people, places and services for the Philippine breast cancer community, while the "I Can Serve" Foundation offers information, counseling (through the "Ka Chat" hotline) and space and opportunity for reflection to cancer survivors, their families and friends.

"In these days when everybody rants and raves, and talks of abandoning ship, I simply remember the breast cancer survivor reveling in a community of possibilities. Hopefully, there's a thing or two we can learn from them as they take the lead in showing us there is always hope as long as there is faith," writes Kara Magsanoc-Alikpala, the project director and author of the book and president of the "I Can Serve" foundation.

* * *

THE SLIM volume offers a quick and easy guide to all kinds of services that cancer survivors, from the newly diagnosed to those living with the disease for some time, need and can access. There's a listing of support groups all over the country, from those offering pastoral and spiritual care, to survivors helping and counseling each other, from groups of patients organized by doctors and other medical caregivers, to volunteers offering their services and even helping raise funds for the treatment of indigent patients.

One group, the "Cagayan de Oro Breast Cancer Network," took off after the founder, Delsa Mortola, a breast cancer survivor, met a friend of a friend at a chicken barbecue fast-food place and inquired why she was looking so sad. The friend said she had cancer and would undergo surgery the next day, but she had no one she could confide in or ask to be with her during the procedure. "Delsa accompanied her to her surgery and has accompanied every breast cancer survivor she knows and before she knew it had a support group in place last year," the book says. Out of such casual, unplanned encounters are born "breast cancer warriors," as Cheche Lazaro, who hosted the launch, calls them.

One of the most poignant things about the book is the inclusion of women, as writers, models and leaders, who have since passed away. Among them are Trisha Borromeo, a nursery school director better known as a model, who wrote an article on her choice to "go alternative" for her treatment and who modeled ways for women undergoing chemotherapy to wear a wig or cover up their thinning tresses. Another volunteer with "I Can Serve," magazine writer Noelle Hechanova, wrote an article on "hair flair," and we are told that just before the book went to press, Noelle passed away at 26 due to heart and kidney failure.

What strikes one most about their stories is not that ultimately cancer took their lives away, but that in the time given them, and from the pictures published in the book, they had obviously lived their lives to the full, and that, as Sharon reminded everyone, they "made I Can Serve the operative phrase" in their lives.

* * *

HERE'S a passage from an article "From Moment to Moment" by Marisette Galang, a co-founder of the support group "Bosom Buddies," who is now based in San Francisco:

"I have been stripped of my health, my personal life, my career and the comforts of my home in my own homeland. In my reflective moments, I ask, 'What truly is the purpose of my life?' No doubt, my purpose for living is to be around for my daughter. As I explore deeper, I wonder if life is so great making it worth fighting so hard for with all my might. Yes, life is certainly precious! Because if in my struggling experience, I am able to reach out in the hope that my life shows love, courage, determination, strengthened faith and hope, then I know that my sharing will someday be helpful. But more importantly, in my weakness, God's strength is seen."

"I Can Serve" is published through a grant from Bristol-Myers Squibb (Phils.), Inc., and is distributed for free. You may order your copies through the Marketing Department, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Tel. No. 841-8181 local 3306 or 3312.

* * *

THE PHILIPPINE Cancer Society is launching a "National Cancer Consciousness Campaign" from Jan. 19 to 25, in observance of the International Year of the Family.

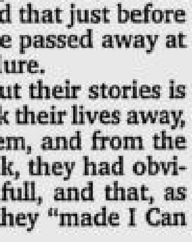
The campaign kicks off this Saturday with a prayer rally at 4 p.m. at the Tanghalang Francisco Balagtas (Folk Arts Center), to be led by an ecumenical gathering of religious leaders, with song numbers, testimonials and prayer intentions for celebrities and other persons touched by cancer, as well as entertainment numbers.

On Sunday, there will be an observance of National Cancer Survivor's Day, marked by exhibits, an address by Senate President Franklin Drilon, followed by a Mass and celebration.

Theme of the campaign is "Kasama sa Panalangin: Kalusugan ng Katawan, Kaisipan at Kaluluwa (In our Prayers: Health of Body, Mind and Soul)."

Warning from Sister Aida

HUMAN FACE



Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

THE SMOKE and smog from last year's toxic atmosphere and from the New Year's Day revelry had not yet cleared when Sister Aida Velasquez, Benedictine nun, scientist and mover behind the Lingkod Tao-Kalikasan called to share her concerns over the push toward the "commercialization of high-risk genetically engineered (GE) crops." What is the National Committee on Biosafety of the Philippines (NCBP) doing about this? She asked.

Sister Aida has come up with a paper titled "Premature Commercialization of High-risk GE Crops is Unacceptable" and she argues why. She attached news items on the promotion of production of "biotech food."

During the Estrada administration, the Philippines received a P286-million loan from the United States for this purpose, "in order to meet the challenges and requirements of a modernized agriculture." This, despite protests of scientists and environmentalists against biotech experiments, particularly the testing of Bt-corn by the multinational Agroseed in General Santos City.

Last year, GE expert Dr. Terje Traavik gave lectures in the Philippines on GE. Traavik is the head of the Virology Department of Norway's University of Tromoso and director of the Norwegian Institute of Gene Ecology. One of the things Traavik emphasized was that few peer-reviewed tests have been done to prove the claims of their proponents that genetically modified organisms (GMOs) are safe. Of the three published test results of GMOs actually fed to rats, two said there were indications that GMOs might not be safe.

On this could be applied the common sense warning that if you're not sure, don't. If dangers have not been ruled out, chances are, there are dangers. This is not like riding vehicles or eating pizza, activities which, in themselves, are not dangerous. Sure, one could choke on pie crust or get swiped by a car, but these risks are not built in. The case of GMOs is different.

Sister Aida argues that the dearth of scientific studies to prove GMO and GE safety for humans and the environment challenges their proponents' claims that "GE is an exact science and that there is nothing to be afraid of. And scientists know what they are doing."

Traavik explained that inserting foreign genes into organisms involves random factors that could result in unpredictable side effects. He added: "The first step involving manipulation of the gene (isolating it to prepare it for insertion) to produce what is called a DNA or gene construct is precise. However, in inserting the gene into an organism, the insertion site is random and unpredictable. In other words, inserting the gene into the same plant five times may produce five completely different placements. Genes do not operate in isolation, they interact with many other proteins and therefore the behavior of the changed gene could be unpredictable."

The arguments could very well apply to the cloning debate. A lot happens during the moment of insertion. If even with the natural process things can go awry, how much more with the handmade ones?

Three 2002 studies by Traavik show that genes can transfer from a GE protein to a normal one. Among the findings are: Certain genes integrated into transgenic plants have been found to be taken up by mammals, something which was originally thought impossible. Antibiotic resistant genes integrated into plants for antibiotic resistance have been discovered to be taken up by gut bacteria, making them resistant to antibiotic applications. Genetically engineered vaccines may cross with their wild relatives to create hybrid viruses. The new viruses may be even stronger and angrier, more virulent than the original diseases for which the original vaccines were created.

Last December, Civil Society Counterpart Council for Sustainable Development (CSCCSD) chair Delfin Ganapin wrote its government counterpart to request for "published results of internal deliberation and agency reviews of the National Commission on Biosafety of the Philippines." The NCBP, by the way, was established during the term of President Corazon Aquino. Ganapin wanted to know what had been done so far, in relation to the NCBP mandate: (a) to identify and evaluate potential hazards involved in initiating genetic engineering experiments or the introduction of new species and genetically engineered organisms and recommended measures to minimize risks, (b) to formulate and review national policies and guidelines on biosafety such as the safe conduct of work on genetic engineering, pests and their genetic material for the protection of public health, environment and personnel and supervising their implementation.

The CSCCSD is asking for a moratorium on the commercial planting of Bt-corn until a review by independent scientists and the scientific basis of the national policy assures the public that safety measures for humans and the environment have been put in place.

* * *

Awesome and spellbinding are weak adjectives to describe Peter Jackson's cinematic rendition of "The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers," the second of the J.R.R. Tolkien trilogy. Same goes for the sound and the music. William Ready, a Tolkien expert and friend calls TLOTR a great contribution to the canon of supernatural literature and creative spiritual fiction. I look forward to TLOTR III next year, to saying goodbye to Frodo who transcends his hobbitry but whose wounds will never fully mend again in this life.

* * *

Send comments to cerespd@info.com.ph

Hope

A MALE friend lost his mobile phone to hold-up men inside a bus on Edsa recently. The crime happened inside a jam-packed bus, and it was carried out by a well-organized group of men.

The first thing my friend noticed was one of the gang members slapping his legs and shouting as if he had stepped on something. Then another man just snatched the mobile phone from his pocket, while yet another stood close by brandishing a knife to make sure nobody intervened.

YOUNG BLOOD

Arturo Sioson Jr.

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

My friend could only wring his hands in frustration. He had been riding buses on Edsa since he was in his teens and until then, he never came face to face with danger. But Edsa has become a dangerous place, and this incident was nothing new. We hear about such things all the time.

A female officemate recently got held up inside an FX taxi she had taken on her way home. After taking her mobile phone and her bag, the criminal still was not satisfied. He tried to force the woman out of the van, probably with the intention of raping her. Only the pleas of the other passengers saved her from being ravaged. The criminal remains on the loose. But we hear this type of news every day. It is not something new.

Even those of us who use private transportation, are not safe from the criminally inclined. Two officemates lost the side mirrors of their cars in a parking lot just last week. A friend lost the side mirrors of his car for the third time in a year while it was parked in front of his house.

Some people may think that losing a pair of side mirrors is a petty thing, but as the people who went through the experience put it, what bothers them most was not the price of the thing they lost but the rampant lawlessness around us. What bothers them is that no one and nothing is safe anymore from people with criminal intentions.

An uncle of mine was a victim of an even worse act of thievery: he lost his car while it was parked outside his own house.

But such things are no longer new. We read and hear stories like these every day. After all, we are in the Philippines.

These and similar stories of lawlessness and the inability of the state to provide protection to its citizens are the reasons why we have little faith in our people and in our country. More often than not, the government is blamed for all of society's ills, but sometimes society itself or the Filipino himself is to blame. Our nation will never be better if society continues to believe it is all right and even necessary to be "*magulang*" to survive, even if that means acting only to promote one's selfish interest and trampling upon the rights of others.

I have almost given up hope that the Filipino will ever make life in this country any better. Many of my friends and relatives have opted to emigrate to other foreign countries, and I cannot blame them for doing so.

The ranks of the poor and the uneducated are increasing every day. Many of them turn to a life of crime, instead of working hard for their money. Big foreign corporations are pouncing at every opportunity to make more profits even if it makes life harder for the average working man. The state looks helpless in fighting corruption and inefficiency, while the government's finances are in shambles. Politicians merely grandstand before the people and fight among themselves instead of working to solve the country's problems. How can there be hope?

But, there may be hope yet. And hope, for me, comes in the person of Mang Tasyo.

Mang Tasyo was the driver of a taxicab I hailed as I was rushing to meet a friend for lunch just a few days ago. He was no different from the typical taxi driver. He was not too friendly and did not try to strike up a conversation with me.

It was only while we were stuck in traffic that I realized he was somebody special.

As we waited for the traffic to move, we spotted a guy hurriedly boarding another occupied taxicab, which was also stuck in the traffic just a few meters away from us. Mang Tasyo immediately suspected the guy was up to no good.

True enough, the fellow casually got out of the other taxicab with a knife in one hand and the woman passenger's mobile phone in the other. This was happening in broad daylight and the guy was going about his business very calmly. He walked casually toward a side street, even as people in other vehicles seemed paralyzed by what was happening. I myself thought I had another bad story to tell.

But Mang Tasyo was not about to let the fellow simply get away with his loot. He shouted at the stunned victim's taxi driver and other drivers to help him catch the attention of a police mobile patrol car. In a matter of minutes, the guy was running as the police, some nearby security guards and some bystanders gave chase. The robber, who must have been high on something, kept on running even after the police fired warning shots.

Mang Tasyo was observing where the robber was going. As the criminal ran across the street away from those who who were chasing him, Mang Tasyo, unmindful of the potential damage to his car or the trouble he might get into, drove right at him, knocking him down. But the fellow still managed to stand up and run again. The other taxi drivers, taking their cue from Mang Tasyo's valiant effort, swooped down on him and pummeled him with their fists, until the police arrived and took him away.

As we proceeded to my destination, I told Mang Tasyo that I was really impressed by what he had done. He replied that he just did what any law-abiding citizen would have done. If that fellow got away, he pointed out, someone close to him could have been his next victim. He was at the right place at the right time, so he had to do the right thing.

By his actions, Mang Tasyo did not only help the victim get her cellphone back, he also gave me something back: He restored a little of my tarnished faith and gave me a flicker of hope. He made me think that there is still hope for the Filipino and this country. Things can still be better one day. There is hope.

Arturo Sioson Jr., 27, is a government employee.

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Coast Guard to probe oil smuggling

THIS has reference to the article in the Metro Section last Jan. 11, 2003, written by Ronnel Domingo titled "Coast Guard, Navy in diesel smuggling."

It is quite unfortunate that the Coast Guard and the Navy, based on the title of the article, were portrayed as culprits in the alleged diesel smuggling in our country. However, bringing the matter to our attention is something we are thankful for.

While the Asian Institute of Management Policy Center has yet to come up with direct and convincing evidence linking government agencies to the alleged diesel smuggling, the Coast Guard leadership will immediately conduct an inquiry to determine if there were actually PCG personnel involved in the illegal activity and will take necessary action if this is true.

We will appreciate very much any information that will help us in our investigation.

—LT. (jg) ARMANDO M. BALILO, PCG
public information officer,
Department of Transportation
and Communications,
Philippine Coast Guard,
139 25th St., Port Area, Manila

Possible conflict of interest

SIMEON Datumanong's appointment as justice secretary may not be prudent. Conflict of interest may arise when irregularities are unearthed at the Department of Public Works and Highways. It's human nature to defend oneself, and Datumanong is only human.

I think his appointment is purely political positioning, to get Mindanao votes. There's nothing new in this republic!

—EFREN H. MERCADO,
attorney-at-law,
Mercado Compound,
Mataas na Lupa, Lipa City

Negros folks turned off by rebel propaganda

AS a keen observer of local developments in Sipalay, Negros Occidental, I have seen that every time the Communist Party of the Philippines and the National Democratic Front and their military arm, the New People's Army, are at a disadvantage, particularly in the battlefield, their leaders promptly shift into a propaganda mode against government troopers.

The report that Moreto Arcadeña, a 38-year-old farmer and father of five, died on Christmas Eve at the Silliman University Medical Center in Dumaguete from complications caused by brutal torture more than a month ago by troops of the 61st Infantry Battalion, is not true.

It appears that the rebels and the left-leaning organizations in our province took advantage of the situation in order to deflect some of the bad reputation they have earned for themselves in our province. This is done simply by shifting the charges to the military as the perpetrator.

Recent killings, revolutionary taxation, recruitment of minors and other acts of terrorism of the New People's Army are clearly meant to destabilize our province and to create a tense situation in our midst.

Their saber-rattling no longer frightens the people in our province. The majority of our people know the real motives of the NPA and have turned their backs on the rebels because of their deception and importunings.

—DR. PEDRO R. SOLIS
Manlocaho, Sipalay, Negros Occidental

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Just say no?

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

LAST week I was on the television talk show "Get Real with Ces Drilon" discussing teenage sexuality, together with Dr. Corie Raymundo of the UP Population Institute (UPPI) and Aurora Silayan-Go of the Foundation for Adolescent Development.

The last part of the show centered on teaching teenage girls to "just say no." The discussions here made me realize how we reinforce existing gender inequities by leaving the responsibility of "saying no" to the girl.

Think of how heavy that responsibility is—one that extends through life. In a research I conducted a few years back, also on teenage sexuality, our team found out that with young unmarried people, there's an assumption that "boys will be boys" because of their raging hormones and that the girlfriend is expected to tame those hormones—by saying no. If something does happen, the girl is blamed: the boy couldn't help himself, but the girl should have said no.

This kind of training before marriage prepares the girl for her role later on as a wife. Does she want to plan her family? Well, then she better be prepared to get her husband to abstain since "artificial" contraception is "sinful." It's so simple, we're told, to just say no to your husband.

The catchword these days in sex education is "life skills," supposedly to empower young girls to say no. I'd prefer something broader, something which I'll call, for now, "gender life skills," where both males and females learn what life is all about, and how gender statuses and roles set both the potentials and limits for life. This means challenging traditional norms such as this unfair shifting of responsibilities to females.

It's important that girls understand "saying no" won't be that simple. Life skills means enabling females to level the playing field from the very beginning so that they can discuss, with their boyfriends, what their relationship is all about, and to break off early if it looks like it'll be one long battle against male power.

If both decide to abstain, well and good, but it has to be a decision that goes beyond traditional concepts about a female having to keep her virginity for her husband. That idea itself is disempowering, reducing a girl's notion of her own worth as being dependent on her virginity.

More controversial, of course, would be the life skills involved if and when premarital sex does occur. Vida, a young single mother who also appeared on "Get Real" last week, said she pretty much knew what she was getting into, and yet wasn't "informed." The two statements aren't really contradictory. Many of our young girls have that problem: they know what the risks are and think they're ready to take those risks. Vida knew condoms could prevent a pregnancy. And yes, she was able to get her boyfriend to use condoms. The problem was she couldn't make him keep the condom on, the guy protesting that the condom reduced sexual pleasure.

We're moving into the realm of male responsibility and this is where far too little is being done, again because "male responsibility" has become another empty cliché.

If there is any mention of male responsibility it's some cursory reference to using condoms, which falls on deaf ears because male responsibility isn't being discussed in relation to so many other aspects of daily life.

I've written, in previous columns, about how our child-rearing techniques tend to raise very irresponsible males. Even among the poorest families, you see mothers pampering their sons, who then end up wastrels, squandering the finances first of their mothers and later of their wives.

I see this all the time even among young people I'm putting through school. These are bright kids, full of promise, but I'm finding that scholarships are almost always much more worthwhile when given to females. They finish on time, with good grades, and use their stipends wisely, sometimes even having leftover money to share with other siblings. Male scholars are different. Having the extra money often corrupts them. Money goes into cell phones and "good time," which means poor grades and delayed graduation. Contrary to stereotypes, it's the male scholars who tend to drop out of school to get married.

All that shouldn't be surprising given the gender norms we have. In interviews conducted as part of UPPI's Young Adult Fertility and Sexuality Study, we find males defining "*pagkabinata*," their coming of age, mainly in terms of freedom to cut classes, to play cards, to drink and smoke. "*Pagkadalaga*," the coming of age for females, on the other hand, is defined mainly in terms of responsibilities: finishing college, getting a job and helping support the family.

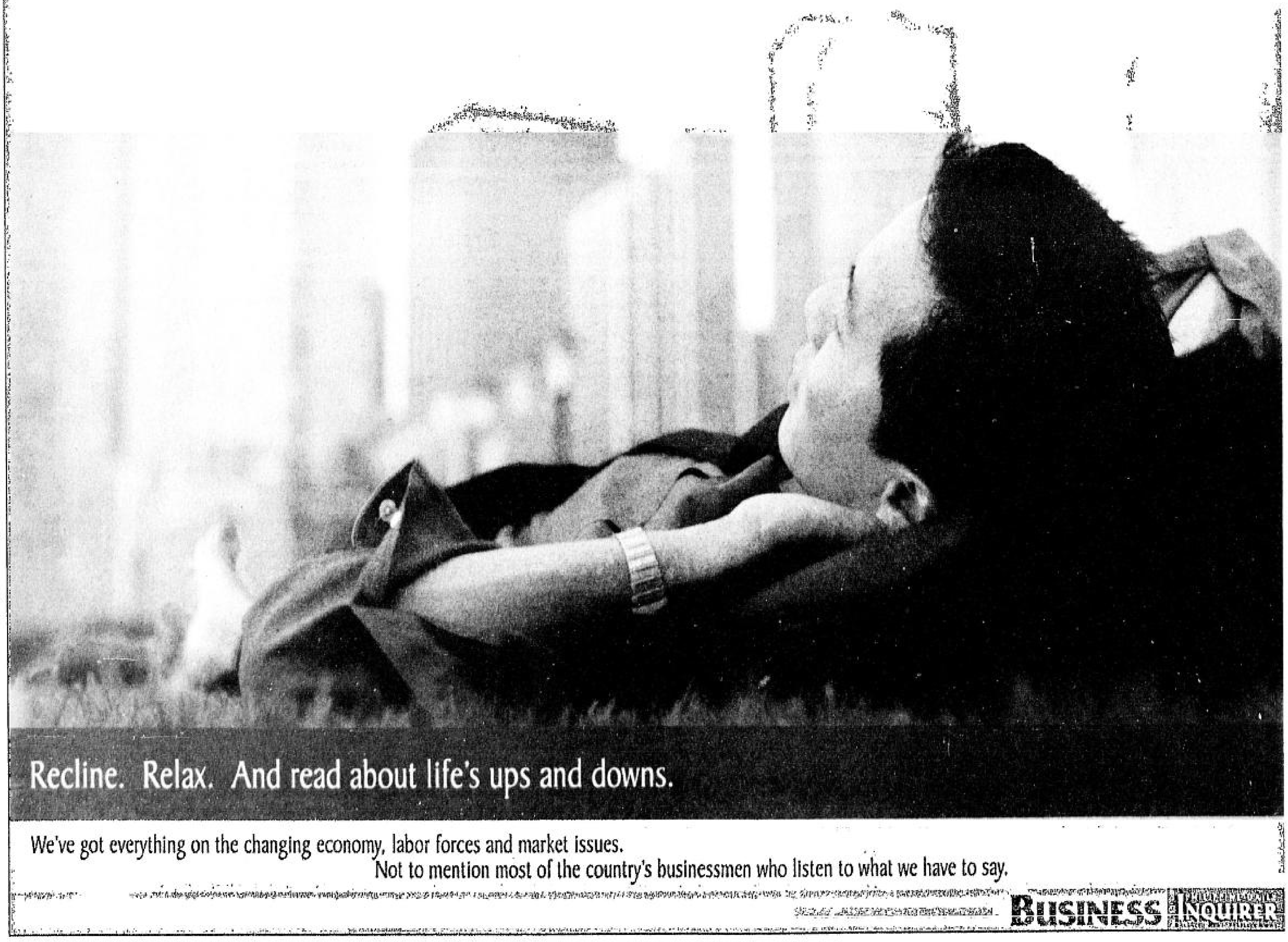
Young males see their allowance as a way to pursue their "freedoms." In many cases, the notions are twisted to include social "obligations" of spending for friends. Note how we even use the term "*galante*" to refer to males who share their allowances and never mind that the mother slaves away doing laundry for several families to give him that allowance.

Not all cases involve a squandering of allowances, but I have to say the gender inequities are so deeply ingrained in our child-rearing that even the most "responsible" of young males will end up as poor financial managers compared with females their age.

It's amazing how our defined gender roles actually socialize males in ways that make them inevitably more "costly" later on. Let me give a very simple example here: I've found out that some of my better male scholars run out of money not because of the *barkada* but simply because they eat out more often. The reason? They never learned to cook because their mothers think cooking is a girl's task. There's more here. Because boys are exempted from household chores, including going to the market for example, they don't learn to budget either.

You find girls preparing their own *baon*, even bringing their own water to school. The boys will buy a hamburger, with a family-size Coke. Girls go straight from the house to school. Boys take side trips, to buy the hamburger, and, oh, I forgot to get the Coke, and cigarettes, and a cell-card refill and, hey, those Bangkok polos are so cheap so let me get one.

We expect girls to say no too often, and boys, well, almost never.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BUSINESS INQUIRER

US offers food deal with North Korea

BEIJING—China and the United States held talks on Wednesday on the crisis over North Korea's nuclear intentions after Washington offered to revive a program to give Pyongyang food and energy if it dropped its nuclear ambitions.

US Assistant Secretary of State James Kelly was expected to face pressure from China—Communist North Korea's neighbor and main ally—to hold direct talks with Pyongyang, as demanded by the North, as soon as possible.

China has offered to host talks and Russia said it planned to send a special envoy to key capitals to help find a diplomatic solution to the crisis over the North's nuclear program.

"I'm looking forward to some chats today with Chinese colleagues to talk about problems, Sino-American issues, issues involving the DPRK," Kelly told reporters in reference to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the North's official name.

"There's no substitute for communication," said Kelly, the top US envoy for Asia, before meeting Vice Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing and others Chinese officials.

Officials declined immediate comment on the talks.

Washington accuses Pyongyang of covertly developing nuclear weapons, a charge the North denies. The crisis came to a head on Saturday when North Korea pulled out of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

Kelly was expected to ask Beijing, an old North Korean ally which provides grain and oil to it at special prices, to put more pressure on Pyongyang to drop its nuclear ambitions and avoid provocative moves such as missile testing, analysts said.

South and North Korea agreed to hold a ninth round of minister-level talks in Seoul from January 21 to 24. Their talks that normally focus on economic cooperation have taken on a decidedly more urgent tone in the wake of the nuclear crisis.

"We will convey our position and the concerns and worries of the international community," said a South Korean Unification Ministry spokesperson.

The Northern delegation is expected to be led by cabinet councilor Kim Ryong-song, with Unification Minister Jeong Se-hyun representing the South, the spokesperson said.

In the strongest sign the White House had dropped its ban on incentives to resolve the issue, President George W. Bush said he might revive his administration's one-time effort to aid North Korea if it abandoned its nuclear program.

"We expect them not to develop nuclear weapons, and if they so choose to do so—their choice—then I will reconsider whether or not we will start the bold initiative that I talked . . . about," Bush said.

The apparent softening of Washington's position—including a statement by Kelly the United States might be willing to help North Korea provide its people with energy—came after weeks of rising tension during the Bush administration's preparations for the possibility of disarming Iraq by force. *Reuters*

US should be tried for nuke proliferation, says Pyongyang

SEOUL—North Korea urged the world community to wake up to the truth Wednesday and put Washington on trial as the worst proliferator of nuclear weapons.

Instead of treating North Korea as a criminal, "contrary to truth and reason," the world should recall that Washington created the atomic bomb and remains the only nation to have used them.

"The facts prove that the US is the epicenter of the nuclear proliferation," North Korea's Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) said.

"Proliferation of nuclear weapons in our planet was started by the United States" said the government mouthpiece, adding Washington used its nuclear capability to "threaten, blackmail and dominate other countries."

"Such moves compelled other countries to competitively step up their nuclear development and, in the long run, triggered off the proliferation of nuclear weapons," it added.

"All the facts prove the historical truth that the world community should place the United States in the dock, if it is to bring to justice the true criminal who escalates nuclear proliferation and threat," it said.

North Korea has denied charges it is developing nuclear weapons though it has withdrawn from the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and is threatening to fire up a reactor capable of producing weapons-grade plutonium.

Washington says Pyongyang already has one or two nuclear bombs and could rapidly produce more if it carries out its threat.

Rejecting calls to scrap its nuclear ambitions, KCNA said Washington "should be the first to totally scrap nukes."

Instead, it said Washington was singling out North Korea for a preemptive nuclear strike. *AFP*

Shrine visit prompts Kim to cancel meet

SEOUL—South Korean President Kim Dae-jung cancelled plans to meet Japan's foreign minister on Wednesday, a day after Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi visited a controversial Tokyo shrine honoring war dead.

Kim's spokesperson cited "scheduling reasons" for scrubbing the meeting with Foreign Minister Yoriko Kawaguchi, who is due in Seoul on Wednesday afternoon to discuss efforts to end a nuclear crisis with North Korea.

South Korea, colonized by Japan from 1910-45, was quick to denounce Koizumi's homage on Tuesday at the Yasukuni Shrine in Tokyo, voicing "anger and disappointment" about the visit, seen in many parts of Asia as an insult to Japan's former colonies.

Kawaguchi's meeting with Kim was a courtesy call and she was still scheduled to meet South Korean Foreign Minister Choi Sung-hong, Japan's Foreign Ministry said in Tokyo.

On Thursday, the Japanese minister is due to meet President-elect Roh Moo-hyun, who takes power from Kim on Feb. 25.

Koizumi outraged China and the two Koreas in August 2001 when he visited the shrine two days before the Aug. 15 anniversary of Japan's surrender in World War II. He visit was a blow to Kim's initiatives to forge a new Seoul-Tokyo partnership.

When Japan ruled the Korean peninsula, it forced Koreans to take Japanese names, banned the use of the Korean language and drafted Korean women to serve in government-run, war-zone brothels as sex slaves to the imperial Army.

Kawaguchi's two-day visit is part of a diplomatic drive by the United States and its allies to defuse a crisis over communist North Korea's nuclear weapons program. *Reuters*

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Anthrax detected in US Federal Reserve's mail

WASHINGTON—The Federal Reserve on Tuesday reported a positive initial test for the deadly anthrax bacteria at the center that checks incoming mail for such threats, the US Postal Service said.

"We have a single test result from one sample out of many that are done over at the Federal Reserve," Tom Day, vice president of engineering for the US Postal Service, told a news conference.

"This appears to be a very isolated incident and it is not clear at all specifically what, if any, piece of mail this came from," Day said.

"The Federal Reserve routinely tests mail delivered to its headquarters in Washington in a secure facility," he said, adding that the suspect item did not enter the headquarters building.

A spokesperson for the Federal Reserve confirmed that á letter addressed to Fed vice chair Roger Ferguson tested positive for the deadly anthrax bacteria in three preliminary tests and said it was was being sent on Wednesday to the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta for further examination.

In the weeks following the Sept. 11 attacks on America in 2001, several letters containing anthrax spores were mailed through a New Jersey postal center to news media offices in Washington, New York and Florida.

Five people, including two Postal workers who worked at Brentwood mail facility in Washington, died and 23 others were made ill.

Anthrax-laced letters were also sent to the offices of Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle and Vermont Sen. Patrick Leahy, both Democrats.

No arrests have been made despite a $2.5-million reward.

Law enforcement agencies said they suspected the anthrax mailings were the work of a disaffected individual, and not of a network like al-Qaida, accused of carrying out the Sept. 11 attacks.

The Federal Reserve spokesperson, who asked not to be identified, said the Fed alerted the US Postal Service to the test results on Tuesday afternoon.

He said initial tests on the suspect letter conducted on Jan 3. and again on Jan. 6 indicated the possibility of the presence of anthrax. As a result, the mail was sent to a laboratory for further testing which found a "presumptive indication" of anthrax.

"We have a single test result from one sample out of many that are done over at the Federal Reserve," said Day, the US postal official.

"The Federal Reserve routinely tests mail delivered to its headquarters in Washington in a secure facility," he said, adding that the suspect item did not enter the headquarters building.

All mail sent to Federal Reserve is tested for the possibility of anthrax in two trailers located near the Fed.

Twice since Sept. 11, 2001, the Fed has reported a positive initial test result for anthrax, though later tests have proved negative.

"There have been false positives," Day said on Tuesday.

"Unfortunately, I believe the Federal Reserve has experienced some of that. But when you get a lab result that gives you a preliminary positive, you've got to take that seriously." Day said the Postal Service was now performing precautionary tests for anthrax at the Washington mail facility which handles mail going to the Federal Reserve.

He said there was no evidence of broad contamination or of risk to employees at the mail facility. "There's absolutely nothing that indicates we have a contamination problem here," he said. *Reuters*

Cold spell kills 1,170 in S. Asia

LUCKNOW—Authorities distributed free blankets and dry wood to hundreds of thousands of homeless people as a four-week cold spell claimed some 1,170 lives in Bangladesh, India and Nepal, officials and news reports said Wednesday

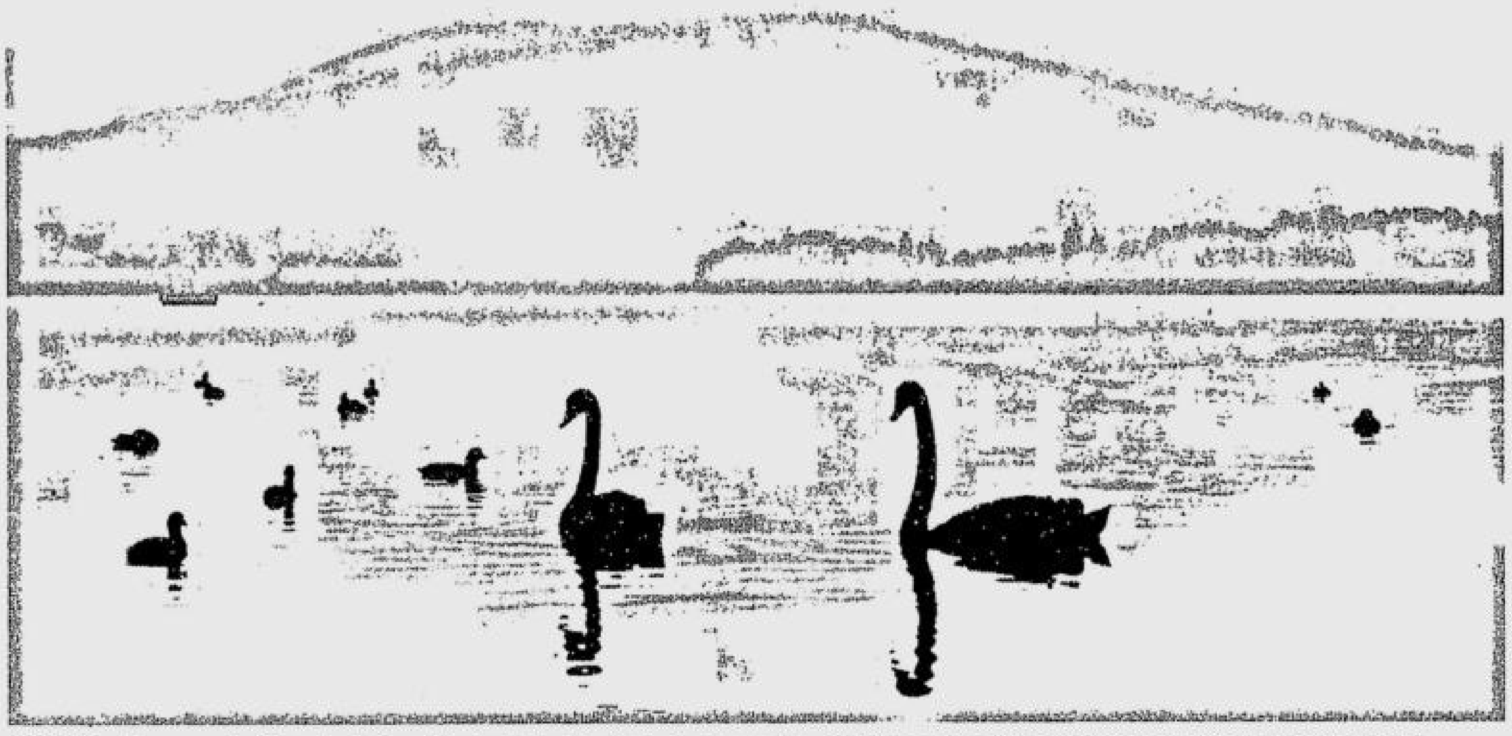
Seventy-eight people died overnight in the northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh, which recorded low temperatures of 1-3 degrees Celsius, pushing the death toll to 437 since Dec. 20, a state government official said on condition of anonymity.

Another 60 have perished in India's eastern Bihar state, officials in the state's relief department confirmed Wednesday. Closure of schools has been extended until Jan. 20, as icy winds dropped temperatures to 2.1 Celsius in Gaya, where thousands of Buddhists have gathered for annual prayers led by the Dalai Lama.

In Bangladesh, where temperatures dipped to 5 degrees Celsius, 30 more deaths were reported on Tuesday. The cold spell has claimed 642 lives in the country.

Such temperatures can be fatal in a part of the world where winters are typically mild and where millions live in shacks or mud-and-thatch houses without heat or electricity. Millions more have no homes and sleep outdoors.

Also Tuesday, at least eight people died due to cold in the Himalayan nation of Nepal, bringing the total number of deaths there to 35, a news report said on Wednesday. *AP*



SWANS swim as smoke from bush fires blanket Lake Burley in Canberra Jan. 14. Three spreading bush fire have raised concerns about contamination of the city's water supply.

AP

Military called to battle bush fires around Canberra

CANBERRA—Army and Navy forces were deployed Wednesday to help exhausted firefighters battle bush blazes that have blanketed the Australian capital in thick smoke.

The chief health officer for the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) issued warnings to asthma sufferers and other people with respiratory problems to stay indoors because of the smoke.

Fires that have been burning out of control for more than a week in forested areas of the territory were expected to worsen with high temperatures forecast for the region later this week, fire officials said.

ACT fire chief Peter Lucas-Smith said the fires had the potential to cause more damage than a devastating blaze that destroyed 33,000 ha of bushland over a six-week period in 1983.

"The conditions of the fuels on the ground at the present time are worse than they were at this same time in 1983," he said.

"It could very well burn as long as six weeks." Two Navy Sea Hawk helicopters were used for water bombing, two navy Squirrel helicopters for aerial reconnaissance and four Army bulldozers helped in fire fighting operations on Wednesday.

Much of eastern Australia has been prone to bad wildfires this southern summer due to severe drought that has gripped the area for nearly a year.

Fire officials said they believed the fires were started by lightning strikes in national park areas. *AFP*

Lawyer wants to quit Blake murder case

BURBANK, Calif.—Actor Robert Blake's insistence on setting up a jailhouse interview with Barbara Walters led a second defense lawyer to ask to leave his case, the attorney said.

Jennifer Keller said in a phone interview that Blake had been visited by Walters last week and was in the process of arranging an on-camera interview when Keller and co-counsel Thomas Mesereau Jr. found out about it from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

The 69-year-old actor is accused of shooting his 44-year-old wife, Bonny Lee Bakley, to death in his car near a restaurant where they had dined May 4, 2001.

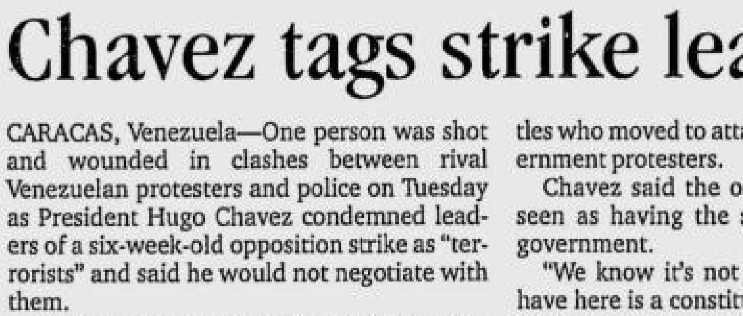
The first defense lawyer to quit did so after learning that the star of the old "Baretta" TV show had tried to arrange an interview with Diane Sawyer.

"When I came into the case it was on the assurance that no interviews would be given without my knowledge," Keller said. "But Mr. Blake insists on setting up interviews and he has an entertainment lawyer, Barry Felsen, who is facilitating these things for him."

Felsen did not respond to a message left at his office after business hours Tuesday.

Keller said the situation is almost identical to the one that led attorney Harland Braun to withdraw.

The Sheriff's Department, which is in charge of the jail where Blake is being held without bail pending his murder trial, refused to allow the Sawyer interview, but Braun would not return to the case. *AP*



GOTCHA

REUTERS

A Jackson's Chameleon, which has a sticky tongue up to twice its body length, strikes at food at the Wellington Zoo in this photo taken Jan. 14.

UN experts inspect Saddam palace in Baghdad

BAGHDAD—UN arms inspectors swooped on President Saddam Hussein's main palace in Baghdad on Wednesday, as a hunt for alleged Iraqi weapons of mass destruction entered its eighth week.

Witnesses said an inspection team in seven cars drove to al- Jamhoury Presidential Palace in central Baghdad for the second inspection of one of Saddam's palaces since the experts resumed work on Nov. 27.

The UN Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC) experts were granted immediate access to the facility and one of their cars blocked its main entrance. Saddam's main office is at the palace but it was not clear if he was there.

The inspectors visited al-Sojoud palace on Dec. 3. Iraq described that inspection as provocative and unjustified.

Inspections of presidential palaces were a source of major confrontations between Iraq and UN inspectors in the 1990s.

Other teams scoured a number of sites, including a private farm near Baghdad on Wednesday, the start of the eighth week of the hunt for alleged Iraqi weapons of mass destruction.

Witnesses said an inspection team drove to the farm in Doura just south of Baghdad in a rare inspection of a privately-owned site. Details of the farm were not known.

The inspections came two days after the inspectors said they were widening their searches after receiving new intelligence from the United States and Britain.

On Tuesday, UNMOVIC and International Atomic Energy Agency experts visited 10 sites, including a base of the Iranian exiled opposition group Mujahideen Khalq, also known as the People's Mujahideen—their first such visit.

Iraq has allowed several thousand well-armed Mujahideen Khalq fighters to be based on its soil since the 1980s. The group claims credit for sporadic guerrilla attacks against Iran. *Reuters*

Chavez tags strike leaders as 'terrorists'

CARACAS, Venezuela—One person was shot and wounded in clashes between rival Venezuelan protesters and police on Tuesday as President Hugo Chavez condemned leaders of a six-week-old opposition strike as "terrorists" and said he would not negotiate with them.

Chavez's comments indicated an apparent hardening of his government's position on the 44th day of the strike—called to press the leftist leader to quit and hold early elections—that has crippled oil output in the world's No. 5 exporter.

The president spoke after scattered skirmishes in west Caracas, in which police fired tear gas and shotgun pellets to repel groups of pro-Chavez militants hurling rocks and bottles who moved to attack a march by anti-government protesters.

Chavez said the opposition could not be seen as having the same legitimacy as his government.

"We know it's not like that . . . What we have here is a constitutional government facing subversion," he said at a ceremony to receive new leaders of the National Assembly.

He condemned his opponents as "elite and privileged sectors" which he said were bent on overthrowing him. "You can't negotiate with terrorists," he said.

He was due to fly later to Quito to attend the inauguration Wednesday of Ecuador's new president, Lucio Gutierrez.

In Tuesday's clashes—the third consecutive day of street violence—Chavez supporters, some of them masked, stoned reporters, smashed the facade of a McDonald's restaurant and threw a Molotov cocktail at a TV news van, witnesses said.

One man was hit in the leg by a bullet but it was not clear who had fired it, city fire chief Rodolfo Briceno said.

Fighting to keep the two sides apart, police also used tear gas against some of the opposition protesters.

Earlier, Vice President Jose Vicente Rangel told foreign correspondents the government aimed to rule until its term ended in 2007. "It's a 'fiction' strike, carried out by people who are obsessed with the idea that by staging a strike, they can get rid of Chavez," Rangel said. *Reuters*

Bush to challenge school's affirmative action

WASHINGTON—President George W. Bush plans to challenge a University of Michigan program that gives preference to minority students, telling the Supreme Court there are better ways to promote diversity, administration officials say.

Justice Department and White House attorneys, acting on Bush's orders, worked Tuesday night on a brief arguing against programs that gave black and Hispanic students an edge when applying to the university and its law school.

The lawsuit brought by three white students is the biggest affirmative action case in a decade, a political lightning rod as Bush struggles to increase his party's appeal to minorities.

The president had not given his final approval of the brief Tuesday night, officials said, but he was familiar with its contents and was expected to give lawyers the go-ahead before Thursday's deadline.

Key details were still being debated, including whether to use the case to make a sweeping statement against racial quotas or rather stake out a more limited challenge to the Michigan program's constitutionality.

Bush administration lawyers intend to praise the merits of diversity in higher education, but argue that the University of Michigan's approach is wrong, officials said, speaking only on condition of anonymity.

The brief is expected to highlight a university admissions program founded in Texas while Bush was governor, and affirmative action opinions by the Clinton administration that seem to support the president's views, they said.

The officials said the lawyers could argue that the university's program relies too much on race and leave open the question of whether schools could use other methods of assuring a diverse student body.

Some administration lawyers have argued that any policy based on race or ethnic status is unconstitutional and that the goal of a diverse student body is not enough to justify using race to guide admissions. *AP*

SINGING FOR SUPPER

REUTERS

A blind folk singer beats drum and sings devotional songs for money at Kenduli, 300 km west of Calcutta, Jan. 14. Thousands of folk singers, called bauls, that come from a community of wandering minstrels, have gather in front of the 800-years-old Joydeb temple to attend the three-days annual village fair on the occasion of Makar Sankranti.

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American school exec faces maul probe

By Allan Macatuno
PDI Central Luzon Desk

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT ZONE—The "inappropriate public behavior," allegedly displayed by an American trustee of the Brent International School who was involved in a bar fight here last month, has prompted calls for his removal from the school's board.

The subject of the petition, Curtis Perry, is facing charges of attempted homicide for beating up Eduardo Prieto, a resident here, at the parking lot of Vasco's Nautical Pub on Dec. 17 last year.

Prieto, a father of two children studying at Brent here, filed the charges against Perry on Monday before the regional trial court in Olongapo City.

A member of Brent's Parents-Teachers Association said the petition to remove Perry from the school board has already gained about 200 signatures.

When contacted by the INQUIRER, Perry declined to comment on the case and on the petition seeking his removal from the Brent board.

Leo Larkin, chair of Brent's board of trustees, said Perry remains a board member and has not been asked to step down after the incident.

But Larkin said Perry should resign from the board once he is proven guilty of beating Prieto.

He said Perry should consider giving up his position "as an act consistent with the school's Christian mission."

Larkin said he would consult with the other board members on the possible sanctions that would be imposed on Perry after they complete their investigation.

"This is the first time a member of the board of trustees of Brent School has been involved in a mauling incident and I am leaving the matter to the court. Everything should undergo the legal process," Larkin said.

He said the Brent board "deeply regrets" the mauling incident that involved Perry and Prieto.

But Larkin, who said he was surprised by the case filed against Perry, noted that the incident was a personal matter between two private individuals.

"The board is nonetheless very concerned about the implications that the incident may create relative to the reputation, interest and integrity of the school," Larkin said.

Perry and Prieto, according to some waiters of Vasco's pub who served as witnesses in the case, had an argument before the scuffle.

The waiters said Perry, an assistant wrestling coach at Brent, invited Prieto out to the parking area of the bar and started hitting him. A certain Andy Wrightstown, a British, stepped in to restrain Perry from further beating up the then bloodied Prieto.

Prieto managed to go to the James L. Gordon Memorial Hospital where he was treated. Medical records showed that he suffered wounds in the face and body. He also suffered wounds in his elbows and knees.

In a statement to the police on Dec. 18, Perry blamed Prieto for starting the fight.

Expert urges more tests for radiation at Clark

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—A Canadian nuclear expert has debunked the claims of the Philippine Nuclear Research Institute (PNRI) that radiation levels at this former American military base were not harmful to humans.

"The authorities have not correctly determined what to test for," Dr. Rosalie Bertell said of the findings by the PNRI in its report "Analysis of Radiation and Lead in Soil and Vegetables at the Former Ammunition Dump Area in the Clark Special Economic Zone."

Bertell, who has a doctorate in biometry, led the international medical commissions on the Union Carbide disaster in Bhopal, India, and the nuclear leak in Chernobyl in the Soviet Ukraine.

In the Philippines, she directed in 1999 the health survey that showed the prevalence of nervous, respiratory, urinary and reproductive systems disorders in 13 villages around Clark.

According to her, the PNRI team did not test for uranium and tritium. She said cesium 137, which the PNRI found in some sites of a 10-hectare ammunition dump, was relatively easier to test since it was a gamma emitter.

A cesium 137 is a radioactive isotope component of nuclear fallout with a half-life of 12 months.

The institute also confirmed the presence of lead at low levels.

Teofilo Garcia, PNRI senior science research specialist, said in a statement released by the Clark Development Corp. that soil samples taken at the dump showed a level of 1.06 radiation while plant samples registered a 0.72 level. Garcia said these levels were "not harmful to humans." But he clarified that the study, completed in November last year, only covered radiation levels and not the toxic wastes earlier identified present at the former base.

Bertell said the institute "eliminated all surface contamination from consideration." "This should be tested as this is the most likely part of the environment to be ingested by the children playing at the site," she said.

Because the study identified only the presence of cesium and lead, "it doesn't make sense to come up with a judgment that it is not harmful or lacks effect on the people," Bertell said. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

4 family members held for illegal drug trade

SOLANO, Nueva Vizcaya—Four members of a family were arrested after more than P1 million worth of shabu was found by police in their house in Barangay Roxas here on Tuesday.

Chief Insp. Eugene Paguirigan, Solano police chief, identified the suspects as Felipe Madrid Jr., 37; his wife Emily Cariño, 27; Madrid's mother Avelina, 64; and his younger brother Joel, 25.

Paguirigan said the four, led by Felipe Jr., allegedly sell shabu to illegal drug pushers, who, in turn, sell drugs to high school students here.

Armed with a search warrant, police raided the suspects' house at around 6 a.m. on Tuesday.

A search yielded sachets of shabu, which, police said, were worth P1 million, dried marijuana leaves, two cellular phones, pieces of jewelry and various antique items estimated to be worth P500,000.

Police said Madrid's mother threw the packets of shabu out of a window when the policemen arrived. The packets of shabu, however, hit a policeman, who was behind the suspects' house. *Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Pacificador won't get bail for Javier murder

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

SAN JOSE, Antique—After nearly 17 years of litigation, the Antique Regional Trial Court has denied bail to former Assemblyman Arturo Pacificador and his co-accused in the murder of former Antique Gov. Evelio Javier.

In a 19-page order dated Jan. 3 but released Jan. 13, Judge Rudy Castrojas, presiding judge of the RTC Branch 12, denied bail to all except one of the 18 accused in the murder of Javier.

"The court finds the foregoing evidence to have established the participation of Assemblyman Arturo Pacificador, Atty. Avelino Javellana and Jimmy Punzalan in the killing of former Gov. Evelio Javier and considers it strong enough to justify the denial of their constitutional rights to bail absent of any controverting evidence from their end at this stage of the proceedings," said Castrojas.

In his order, Castrojas said the evidence of the prosecution failed to show that Pacificador fired any gun that caused the death of Javier or that he was in Antique on Feb. 11, 1986.

But he said there was proof that Pacificador housed Eduardo "Boy Muslim" Iran and Iran's armed group in the former assemblyman's house in Parañaque in Manila and in Hamtic town in Antique where they were given food and money before and after the killing of Javier.

Also denied bail were Pacificador's son Rodolfo, Iran, former Philippine Constabulary Capt. John Paloy, Vicente Vegafria, Ramon Hortillano, Henry Salaver, Eleazar Idemne, Rolando Bernardino, Oscar Tiauson, Henry Seguerra, Jimmy Punzalan, and four persons known only as Akang, Noynoy, Tatang and Dolfo.

Most of the accused are detained at the provincial jail at the Binirayan Hills in San Jose. Some have been in jail for more than 16 years.

The younger Pacificador is seeking political asylum in Canada where he fled after the killing. The Philippine government has filed a petition before the Canadian courts for his extradition but it was dismissed by the Ontario Court of Appeals last year.

The whereabouts of Iran remained unknown. There had been unconfirmed reports that he was killed or seriously wounded in Malaysia two years ago. Iran is believed to be the leader of the gunmen who shot and pursued Javier from the grounds of the Capitol to a toilet of a house, some 250 meters away, where Javier was finished off.

Two other accused, Romeo Nagales and Arleen Limoso were discharged from the list of the accused after they turned state witnesses.

Bombing suspects elude Cotabato, Davao police

DAVAO CITY—Police failed to arrest five suspects in the Datu Piang (Maguindanao) bomb attack on Dec. 24 that left town Mayor Saudi Ampatuan and 16 others killed.

The five suspects, reportedly armed with high-powered firearms, checked in at the Larous Pension House along Ilustre Street here on Saturday night. They introduced themselves as policemen.

But another hotel guest, reportedly a son of a Datu Piang official, noticed the arrival of the group that night and tipped off his father.

Police in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao immediately dispatched a team led by Insp. Nestor Tiu of the Cotabato City Police Office.

The Cotabato police contingent reportedly arrived at the hotel around 3 a.m. Sunday and immediately surrounded the hotel vicinity. They coordinated with the Davao City Police Office only at 5 a.m.

The joint police force, numbering to 50, stormed all the hotel rooms but failed to locate any of the suspects. The suspects stayed at rooms 212 and 218.

Police said the suspects could have escaped by destroying the hotel's exit windows.

Tiu identified three of the suspects as Commander Rambo, Gary Dagandal and one alias Bede.

Commander Rambo and his group are facing multiple murder and multiple frustrated murder charges in court.

A police source said two of the suspects were discharged policemen while three others were members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front. *Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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INQUIRER Southern Luzon
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Families of 'desaparecidos' find hope

By Marlon Ramos
Los Baños, Laguna

AFTER 25 long and agonizing years of waiting, families of victims of summary executions and of *desaparecidos* (victims of forced disappearances) during the Marcos dictatorship may soon get justice for their loved ones.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has offered help to unravel the mystery behind the disappearance of 10 political activists, now aptly called by their relatives as the Southern Tagalog 10 or ST10.

During the celebration of International Human Rights Day last Dec. 10, the President met with the families and friends of the ST10 to discuss prospects of putting an end to their torment. The meeting, which was deliberately kept out of media coverage, was a breath of fresh air for the relatives.

Hopeful

"The ST10 remains on record as the single biggest case of salvaging and involuntary disappearance perpetrated by the military in the entire history of martial law, not only in the region but, most probably, in the whole country [as well]," according to Bonifacio Ilagan, theater director and former political detainee.

Most of the families of the 10 political dissenters met for the first time on July 27 last year to commemorate their beloved's heroism.

The gathering was not only a recollection of their kin's short yet meaningful life, but also a "rekindling of our quest for justice," said Ilagan.

His sister Rizalina belonged to a group of freedom fighters from the University of the Philippines at Los Baños, Laguna, and other towns of Southern Tagalog who failed to survive the tumultuous martial law era. The others were Modesto Sison, Virgilio Silva, Salvador Panganiban, Jessica Sales, Ramon Jasul, Gerardo Faustino, Cristina Catalla, Manny Salvacruz and Erwin de la Torre.

To date, only the bodies of Sison, Silva and Panganiban have been recovered.

An investigation by the Amnesty International and the Task Force Detainees revealed that the ST10 was a case of "salvaging" and forced disappearance committed by uniformed officers.

"I didn't even notice that 25 years have already passed since my sister and her comrades vanished," Ilagan said. "The surviving members of the families continue to hope for justice, or perhaps even for the bones of the missing."

A feature article about the reunion was published in the INQUIRER on Aug. 4 last year. Radio stations also invited the relatives to discuss the fate of their loved ones in their programs. Even organizations from prominent conservative schools became interested about the cases.

A producer of "I-witness," a television program on Channel 7, read the INQUIRER article and decided to include the story in its episode reminiscing the 30th anniversary of the First Quarter Storm.

The media mileage gained quite a number of inspiring messages from people who watched and read about the ST10, Ilagan said.

The support pushed some relatives of the victims to write an appeal to the President.

"Luckily, one of the relatives knows [Teresita] Ging Deles, chair of the National Anti-Poverty Commission. So after we made the letter, we requested Chairman Deles to personally give the letter to the President. Fortunately, we got a positive response," Ilagan said.

Perpetrators

Ilagan and his group didn't expect that they would soon be sitting in a Cabinet meeting. All they knew was that Ms Macapagal wanted to meet with them. During the round-table discussion over breakfast in Malacañang, Ilagan read the letter and furnished the President with a documented copy of the case.

"Madame President, we are among the thousands of Filipino families who are bonded together by the same pain of salvaging and forced disappearance of our loved ones, especially during the years of martial law," the letter said.

"When we met last July, we celebrated the lives of our martyred beloved—and we asked if that could be enough for a closure on our collective grief. Some fell silent and were once again unable to bear the burden. But there were those who declared that we must rekindle the quest for justice one more time."

Among those who attended the meeting were Interior Secretary Jose Lina, Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes and then acting Justice Secretary Merceditas Gutierrez.

A RELATIVE of a "desaparecido" displays a photo of her son during a Mass and cultural program at the Redemptorist Church in Baclaran in 1998.
JESS YUSON

"Mrs. Arroyo asked us if we had any idea who the perpetrators were. We said yes, and we definitely do," Ilagan said.

After listening to the families' narratives, the President conferred with Reyes and Gutierrez about the possibility of bringing those being accused to justice.

Both officials affirmed it and even expressed full support to the group's goal of claiming justice. Reyes offered help in locating the officers that the families will name, while Gutierrez promised legal assistance.

Urgent appeal

The case, if pushed through, could mean a precedent in solving other cases of military-sponsored crime and violence against the people, Ilagan said.

Aside from seeking an audience with the President, the letter appealed to the government that:

- The state shall take full responsibility for the case of the ST10.
- The Macapagal administration shall declare a policy against salvaging and forced disappearance in the country.
- An investigation be conducted on the case of the ST10. Military files and information relating to the case as well as to all reported cases of salvaging and forced disappearance must be declassified. Also, the government shall assist the families in searching for their loved ones, particularly those whom they assume to be dead by now.
- In memory of the heroes and martyrs who fought for freedom during the Marcos regime, the government shall assist in the documentation of cases of salvaging and forced disappearance and in the placement of commemorative markers to honor them.
- The Macapagal administration shall certify as urgent a bill that will "criminalize" summary executions and forced disappearances perpetrated by the military.

At present, the relatives are busy preparing a documented portfolio of the case and searching for evidence to pin down the perpetrations.

The group has received unconfirmed information that Ms Macapagal had already issued a directive to construct a memorial for the ST10 somewhere in Lucena City or Mauban town in Quezon. The marker, it is believed, will be unveiled during the celebration of Edsa 1 in February.

In memoriam

Ilagan, being the artist that he is, has taken up the gauntlet to realize an ambitious project that will put the sacrifices of the 10 victims on a different level. A video-documentary and book about the ST10 are being planned to offer a cogent explanation of the fateful event.

"The project seeks to give a deeper meaning to what the group stood and died for. It will tackle the sad reality that what our kith and kin experienced some 25 years ago are still happening even now that we've restored our democracy," Ilagan said.

The venture is not a run-of-the-mill project. Ilagan visualized the video-documentary as taking "a dramatic and narrative structure to elicit viewer interest, especially among the youth."

"It shall veer away from the rather stiff documentary tradition and will explore dramatization to strengthen its presentation and storytelling," he added.

To create more appeal, the production will collect as many visual and documentary materials, like still photographs, printed news items and photos, documents and archival video footage.

The dramatization of significant events shall fill in acerbic scenarios where there is a lack of documentary and archival video support. The product will be of broadcast or commercial quality.

On the other hand, the book will explore the novel as a form. Each chapter will be a continuing episode of an extended story that possesses living characters enacting a highly engaging dramatic plot and structure.

"We also want to put in as many worthy pictures as possible for visual appeal," Ilagan explained.

Both projects will be available in two language editions—Filipino and English. The original, however, shall be in Filipino.

A higher goal is to inspire the youth to continue the vigilance and self-sacrifice that the 10 had shown.

"It is not only in their honor that we need to always remember and never to forget . . . those who are unable to remember the past will never be able to create a future for their own . . . without a remembrance of the past, they will forever be enslaved," he stressed.

Moreover, the project may provide an answer to Ilagan's allegory, "the greater tragedy is not that our loved ones went missing and died some 25 years ago . . . the greater tragedy is that those they left behind have forgotten that they did, and why."

Batangueños show devotion to Sto. Niño in 9-day festivities

By Mei Magsino
Batangas City

FOR THE PAST nine days, Batangas City has been alive with celebrations that started with a fluvial procession on Jan. 7 at the Cumintang River to honor the Holy Infant Jesus, more popularly known as Sto. Niño, whose statue is believed to have floated from Cebu to Batangas some 420 years ago.

The festivities, which culminate today, also featured the *harana* (serenade) and a tribute to the Sto. Niño.

Old folks say their patron saint has been saving the city from bad calamities and misfortune.

For an industrialized city where residents maintain more than four centuries of devotion to the Child Jesus, the returns have been big.

"We celebrate the feast of the Sto. Niño as our way of thanksgiving for the continuous blessings that the city has been getting," Mayor Eduardo Dimacuha said.

A FLUVIAL procession commemorates the numerous times the image of the Sto. Niño floated all the way from Cebu to return to Batangas and finally stay in Batangas City's Immaculate Concepcion Church.
MEI MAGSINO

"Here in Batangas City, there has never been a big disaster, heinous crime and kidnapping incident," Dimacuha said. "Ours is a peaceful city because of the guidance and blessing of our patron saint."

According to a historical profile of the city, a statue of the Sto. Niño was being transported to Cebu in a ship when bad weather forced the vessel to seek shelter in the coves of Batangan, as what the city was then named when it was still a *pueblo* (town) because of the huge logs called *batang* that were found there.

Batangan, in the 1580s, was part of Marcial Goiti's *encomienda*, a large tract of land granted by the King of Spain to his subjects for meritorious services to the crown.

Singing Te Deum hymns, the vessel's crewmen brought the image of the Holy Infant to the altar of a small church on the shore. It was the site of the old Batangan Catholic church that was first established by a Franciscan friar, Diego Mexico.

The small church, made of bamboo and nipa, was dedicated to the Nuestra Señora de la Immaculada Concepcion.

Soon after, the storm miraculously abated and the image continued its voyage to Cebu. But it never reached its destination.

Batang gas

A few months after the incident, a deaf-mute boy found a statue of the Sto. Niño on a floating *batang* near the banks of the Calumpang River behind the church. That same time, it was reported in the parish church of Cebu that the image of the Sto. Niño was missing.

When the child gave the statue to the Catholic Church, the officials of both Batangan and Cebu parishes presumed it was the lost image. Both parishes decided that the statue be returned to Cebu.

But strangely, every time the statue was shipped back to Cebu, a storm would suddenly occur and prevent the ship from sailing. After many failed attempts, the church officials and the *gobernadorcillo* of Cebu agreed to let the image of the Holy Infant stay permanently in Batangan.

According to the historical profile, when the child found the Sto. Niño in the river, the *batang* log strongly reeked of gas. The people started calling the image "*batang gas*" and later changed the name of their town to Batangas.

Devotion

As a tribute, Batangas City celebrates the feast of the Sto. Niño every Jan. 16, preceded by nine days of civic and religious rites and festivities.

On the first day of the fiesta, the Sto. Niño ng Batangan was taken to Barangay Wawa for the fluvial parade in the Cumintang River. Choirs from the parishes of the city serenaded the Sto. Niño as the devotees sailed on.

Later, the image was brought to the city's main streets for a procession. This was followed by a novena Mass at the Basilica of the Immaculate Concepcion.

From the second up to the last day of the celebration, different groups from all sectors of society paid tribute to the patron saint with cultural presentations and dancing of the *subli*.

Other highlights were a children's art competition, a photo contest, the search for the Binibining Lungsod ng Batangas, battle of the bands, a civic and military parade, and a small band competition.

The celebration ends today with a Mass.

DIWALWAL ! !

BLOOD AND TEARS NO MORE

Because our future and our children's futures are at stake:

We the miners of Diwalwal, **imputed with the crime of bribery,** banded together to frame our collective response to a full page ad that came out January 6:

"Is there substantial compliance or compliance was substantial?".

Our wealth: for the many

In September last year, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo affirmed service contracts made by her DENR Secretary Heherson T. Alvarez, between government and small miners for the extraction and processing of gold by small miners *cooperatives,* and the radical sharing scheme of the contracts: 85% of proceeds of gold to small miners, 15% to government.

The 15% will be divided as: 2% for environmental protection; 3% for social development; 1% for Indigenous Peoples; 1% for any prospective claims for damages; 2% for excise tax; 1% LGU share; 5% for management fee of professional mining experts hired to help us plan a sustainable development of the mines.

This reverses the extortionate sharing of the past. In the first 3 months of operation after the Diwalwal declaration, the government already has shared **6 bullions of pure gold** worth more than P6 million. A contrast to the last 19 years when the government got ZERO.

INDUSTRIAL PEACE

Even that agreement over gold deposits 600 meters below sea level which requires high capital and technology intensive investment our Compostela Valley Mining Cooperative (CVMC) is a key player that shares 5% of gross, whereas government takes 17.5% of gross, and the Joint Venture Group (Helica, Blucor, JV and Bubscor) which covers cost of operations, capital equipment, and expenses and maintenance (50% of gross expenditures) will share 77.5 of gross. Gone are the days of a favored few.

President Arroyo and Secretary Alvarez inaugurated a **social justice agenda** that has reversed the impoverishment, exploitation, and killings of thousands of miners. We can now aspire to educate our children, provide for our medical needs, and even build homes to live decently

The ad that came out last Monday is an attempt to let loose the powerful forces of greed that cleverly monopolized the wealth of Diwalwal picturing us, the small miners, as incompetent, irresponsible and uncaring of the environment.

WE ARE NOT FOOLS!

With Sec. Alvarez, hindi namin kailangang magsuhol para kami pakinggan kagaya ng binibintang ng mga sakim.

FRANCO J. TITO
Barangay Chairman
Mt. Diwata. Monkayo, Compostela Valley

HENRY C. BUDUAN
Retrievers Miners Development Cooperative

SERGIO A. DELOSO
Mt. Diwata Abantero Cooeprative

DENNIS VALLEJO
Mountain View Mining Development Cooperative

NEFTALI M. YORDAN
Defender Mining Development Cooeprative

ROLDAN O. ROSALES
Magiting Mining Development Cooperative

MARGARITO C. BLANCKET
Mt. Diwata Stock Buyers and Millers Cooperative

ULDARICO E. DURAN, JR.
Golden Movers Development Cooperative

BENJAMIN DUQUE
Kalayaan Mining Development Cooperative

NOLI APURADA
Hillside Mining Development Cooperative

ROSE YAMYAMIN
Prism Mining Development Cooperative

Sinupil ni Sec. Alvarez, sa pamamagitan ng batas at makatarungang pamamaraan, ang vested interest na sakim sa Diwalwal.

We have been exploited by tricky, powerful vested interests and a manipulative businessman for too long that we can spot a good man when we see one.

Sec. Alvarez is a very upright man. Early on in our negotiations with him, we saw his sincerity and a strong vision to help the poor of Diwalwal. He has always been for the small people. From his Land Reform Law (CARP) to his Cooperatives Law now applied to Diwalwal.

Our discussions were open, transparent, always participated by our group and representatives. The negotiation was the climax of a long, tedious, and thorough exchange of views between us and numerous stakeholders, and the DENR. Through it all, the Secretary presided over the negotiation and helped clarify disagreements, crystallize views, and harmonize our competing interests.

For the first time in 19 years, We the tens of thousands of small miners have been given the gift of hope, the chance to plan for a future for ourselves and our children and their children. We found a courageous leader in Sec. Alvarez. And for that we will be forever grateful.

Ang aming katapatan ay mananatili sa mga taong tumulong sa amin na maisakatuparan ang may pag-asang magandang kinabukasan:

> ***Kay Secretary Alvarez nakahanda kaming ibigay ang aming buong kakayanan at suporta sa kanyang mga adhikain sa anumang posisyon sa gobyerno. Kami'y naniniwala sa kanyang galing at katapatan sa paglilingkod maging ito man ang pinakamataas na tungkulin sa bayan.***
>
> ***Kay Presidente Arroyo aming inaalay ang aming taos-pusong paglilingkod upang lubos na maisakatuparan ang mga programa para sa Pilipino.***

We maintain our faith in Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. This is one act **History** will remember her for.

We call on all our people to help us build a new Diwalwal of Peace, Justice and Humane Environment.

Hindi na kami papayag na muling apihin ng mga sakim na gustong solohin ang kayamanan ng Diwalwal kapalit ay paghihirap, sakit, gutom at kamatayan ng mga maliliit na mga trabahador.

ROBERTO C. BUNIALES
President
Mindanao Federation of Small Scale Miners Ass'n.

ARIEL M. PLANIA
Buscor Mining Development Cooperative

YOLANDO B. BASMAYOR
Matipid Mining Development Cooperative

TERESITO L. TALIP
Blue Mountain Mining Development Cooperative

MELANIO ARIZA, JR.
Mr. Diwata Mini-CIP Plant Cooeprative

RALPH ALLAN BASA
Maligaya Mining Development Cooperative

ALIBASER SAMPIANO
Diwalwal United Muslim Cooperative

BERNARDO LICAYAN, JR.
Mt. Diwata Gold Mining and Processing
Development Cooperative

FRANCISCO L. GALLARDO
Matibay Mining Development Cooperative

ROBERT M. ABAYON
Fox Mining and Development Cooperative

CAMILO BANAD
Integrated Tribal Small Scale Miners
Multi-Purpose Cooperative

ADVT.

New watchdog emerges to keep eye on gov't

From page A1

This is their way of helping improve the investment climate in the country, he said.

Representatives of the business, labor, religious and academic sectors attended the BPM launch at Club Filipino in San Juan and declared that the "silent majority" could no longer stay silent.

They signed a covenant wherein they promised to take an active role in governance to help form a "no-nonsense and broad-based national agenda for reform, unity and progress."

They also pledged to push electoral reforms and "develop a culture of patronizing Philippine-made products and services" to generate jobs.

The coalition's reform agenda includes "undertaking decisive measures to stop smuggling, tax evasion, graft and corruption, and other forms of economic plunder."

The influential Iglesia ni Cristo was represented by Gerson Samson, who said he came only as an "observer" and would not take part in the coalition's advocacy.

But Samson pointed out that his presence signified the INC's "demonstration of support for the growing public call for a non-partisan agenda for unity and economic recovery."

With his presence, he said, the INC was sending a clear "message" to politicians to address the problem of poverty affecting all Filipinos.

Democrito Mendoza, head of the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines, said the TUCP joined the coalition because it was "tired of the usual political lip service" by the country's leaders.

TUCP spokesperson Alex Aguilar said the BPM would include Malacañang, the Senate and the House of Representatives in the "scorecard" it would put out.

He said the BPM would also review the administration's economic reform agenda to determine whether it would prove beneficial to the people.

"We are also looking at Congress..." Aguilar said. "We feel there are too many investigations, too much waste of the people's money in conducting hearings."

He noted that no legislation had resulted from the various hearings, and said that henceforth, lawmakers would be asked to tell the people what possible measures would be filed in relation to planned investigations.

Ecop's Dee said they would inform President Macapagal-Arroyo of wrongdoing by her officials and seek an impartial inquiry into the matter.

Mike Velarde, leader of the vote-rich El Shaddai prayer group and one-time spiritual adviser of ousted President Joseph Estrada, clarified that he did not form the BPM, as earlier reported, but was only invited to join it.

Velarde said he was breaking his pledge to keep his mouth shut after People Power II, which drove Estrada out of Malacañang in 2001.

He said this was no time for fence-sitters, and urged all Filipinos to join the call for politicians "to set aside too much partisan politics and ... work harmoniously ... as one in crafting appropriate, effective and lasting solutions to our country's economic troubles and peace and order needs."

Velarde earlier said the BPM was planned even before Ms Macapagal announced that she would not run in the 2004 elections.

As earlier announced by organizers, no politicians were invited to the launch. But Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas and Jose Pardo, Estrada's former finance secretary and now adviser to the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, were present.

Apart from Dee, Aguilar and Velarde, the signatories to the covenant included Miguel Varela and Sergio Ortiz-Luis Jr. of the PCCI, Meneleo Carlos of the Federation of Philippine Industries, Rene Ofreneo of the University of the Philippines' Center for Labor and Grassroots Initiatives, Jose Concepcion of the Bishops-Businessmen's Conference, and John Ng of the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry Inc.

Perez says he merely copied Tuquero's opinion on Impsa deal

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE LEGAL opinions issued by resigned Justice Secretary Hernando Perez and his predecessor, Artemio Tuquero, did not grant a direct government guarantee to Impsa, the Argentine firm that won the contract to rehabilitate a hydroelectric power plant in Laguna.

Perez told the INQUIRER that neither the Estrada nor the Macapagal administration had issued a direct guarantee that would bind the government to pay the obligations of the parties in case of default.

The legal opinion issued by Tuquero on June 28, 2000, and the one issued by Perez on Feb. 1, 2001 are basically the same.

(The Perez opinion was dated Jan. 24, 2001 but was signed Feb. 1.)

Perez had said that he merely copied the Tuquero opinion, which was issued to provide legality to the Government Acknowledgment and Consent Agreement (Gaca). There was no mention whatsoever of any sovereign guarantee.

Perez copied verbatim the first paragraph of the Tuquero opinion, except for the use of acting secretary in lieu of justice secretary. Since the newly installed Macapagal administration had yet to obtain legitimacy from the high court at the time, Perez was designated acting secretary.

Before the end of the first paragraph, Perez added the phrase "CBK Power Corporation Limited and the Collateral Agents named therein," referring to the local representative of Impsa.

The next paragraph was inserted by Perez to emphasize that he had read Tuquero's opinion before issuing his. It was followed by paragraphs copied from the Tuquero opinion. They talked about the several contracts entered into by the government in connection with the $450-million Caliraya-Botocan-Kalayaan (CBK) hydropower plant. The National Power Corp. (Napocor) awarded the project to Impsa and CBK Co. Ltd., a partnership between Impsa and the American firm Edison Mission.

The essence of the Perez opinion—enumerated by five provisions—was similar in form and substance to the Tuquero opinion, except for a sixth provision inserted by Perez. The sixth provision said: "(E)ach of the opinions set forth in paragraphs a to e of the June opinion applies to the Agreements as if such Agreements were included in the BROT (build-rehabilitate-operate-transfer) Agreement in the June Opinion."

The Perez opinion also reiterated Tuquero's stand that the Department of Justice (DOJ) recognized that the republic "has the full authority and power to enter into GACA and to exercise its rights and perform its obligations thereunder."

Both opinions emphasized that the government had waived immunity from suits arising from disputes related to the power deal.

Tuquero ended his opinion with a recognition "that no law impairing the obligation of contracts shall be passed."

As for Perez, he clarified that the Gaca did not automatically bind the government to follow the decision of an arbiter in case of disputes.

Perez said that "any arbitral award" was subject to qualifications, including jurisdiction of the arbitral tribunal.

He added that his opinion was confined to "matters of Philippine law and no opinion is expressed as to the laws of any other jurisdiction."

Legal opinions do not amend contracts

From page A1

The Perez opinion is similar to the "opinion of counsel" that foreign investors and bankers usually require from Philippine corporations they want to enter into joint ventures with. The "opinion of counsel" is also required when local companies want to borrow money from international banks or financing institutions.

Before parting with their millions, foreign businessmen usually consult first with Filipino lawyers, accountants and whoever can give them good advice on the viability of the proposed business project and the capacity of the local corporation to meet its contractual obligations.

As an added security measure, either before or after the signing of the contract while money has yet to be delivered to their Philippine counterpart, foreign businessmen usually require that a lawyer, who is not connected with any of the parties, certify to the validity of the provisions of the contract.

This certificate, described as "letter of comfort" or "opinion of counsel," is often issued by a Filipino lawyer, who has a reputation for integrity and expertise in Philippine laws that apply to the business venture.

Since his reputation is on the line, that lawyer has to thoroughly review the contract to make sure his opinion is in accordance with its terms and conditions and Philippine laws. The lawyer's fee for this work is not chicken feed, especially if the sums involved in the contract are substantial. And the fee has to be paid by the Philippine corporation!

Limitations

The opinion of counsel cannot rise higher than its source. It cannot create new rights or impose additional obligations on the parties. It cannot change any of the terms and conditions of the contract.

It is limited to evaluating the provisions that pertain to, among others, the validity and enforceability of the contract, the authority of the signatories to bind the company they represent, and the submission of the parties to a foreign court or arbitration panel in case they differ in the interpretation of the contract.

The opinion of counsel gives foreign businessmen a certain level of comfort or assurance that they have entered into a valid contract that can be enforced in accordance with Philippine laws or through other internationally accepted dispute resolution processes.

Going back to the Impsa case, instead of asking a private lawyer to issue the opinion of counsel, the contracting parties agreed to pass on that task to the justice secretary. This is not surprising because Napocor is a government-owned corporation and there is no way the Commission on Audit will allow the disbursement of taxpayers' money to a private lawyer to pay for a chore that can be performed by the justice secretary at no extra cost.

Neither does Impsa have reason to doubt that whoever is the justice secretary signing the opinion of counsel will do so with integrity and honesty. The country will become a pariah in the international legal community if its justice secretary cannot be trusted to intelligently and objectively determine the validity or legality of the contractual obligations of the government he represents.

DOJ opinions

Thus, on June 28, 2000, then Justice Secretary Artemio Tuquero issued the opinion of counsel confirming the validity of the 1998 contract between Napocor and Impsa, and the 1999 agreement to transfer Impsa's rights and obligations in that contract to CBK Corp. That opinion did not add to or subtract anything from the contracts earlier entered into by the parties.

In September 2000, CBK assigned its rights over the payments it will receive from Napocor to the banks that put up the money needed to bankroll the construction and rehabilitation of the power plants. Since this assignment, to which Napocor has agreed, constitutes a change in the original terms and conditions of the contract, the parties were obliged, under the contract, to go back to the justice department for the requisite opinion of counsel.

On Jan. 24, 2001, Perez, then justice secretary, issued the opinion upholding the validity of the assignment of CBK's receivables from Napocor to the financial lending institutions.

There is nothing in the Perez opinion that states that the Philippine government has guaranteed the payment of the obligations of Napocor to Impsa or CBK. Like Tuquero's earlier opinion, the Perez opinion limited itself to stating that all the agreements entered into by Napocor for the power plants are in accordance with Philippine laws.

No authority

There is no way Perez could have granted the alleged sovereign cover because the secretary of finance, not the justice secretary, has the authority to give government guarantees for financial obligations incurred by other parties.

Not being a lawyer, former President Joseph Estrada, who testified in the Senate on the controversial power deal on Tuesday, cannot be faulted for his mistaken interpretation of the effects of Perez's opinion. But any lawyer who expresses agreement with that position either doesn't know what he is talking about or ought to go back to law school for a refresher course on the law on contracts.

Now let's go to the issue of whether the government guaranteed Napocor's obligations in its contract with Impsa. Under our laws, any agreement by a person to assume the obligations of another person in case the latter fails to comply with his commitments must be clear and unequivocal. It cannot be presumed or read between the lines of a contract. The reason is simple: because a guarantee imposes a heavy burden on the guarantor, it is only fair that the assumption of liability and parameters of the assumed obligation are spelled out in unmistakable terms.

The closest in terms of "guarantee" the government gave to the Impsa project is the letter of then Finance Secretary Edgardo Espiritu, dated July 12, 1999, informing Impsa and its financial backers that the government "shall see to it that Napocor shall be able to discharge its obligations in the contract as they fall due."

Big question mark

Outside of that "best efforts" statement, there is nothing in the provisions of the contract documents that says that if Napocor fails or reneges on its commitments to Impsa, the government will dig into its already depleted coffers to make good Napocor's unfulfilled obligations. The so-called government guarantee is a big question mark.

So what happens in case Napocor, knock on wood, runs out of money to pay Impsa's banks? Since Napocor is a corporation with its own charter, its creditors have no choice but to run after whatever assets it owns to satisfy unpaid accounts. If the assets are insufficient, the creditors would just have to accept their losses. That's part of the risks of doing business in this part of the world.

Erap 'dug his own grave,' says Drilon

By Cynthia D. Balana

FORMER President Joseph Estrada "dug his own grave" when he testified in the Senate Tuesday on the $450-million Impsa power deal and on the alleged $14 million bribe offered him by Manila Rep. Mark Jimenez, according to Senate President Franklin Drilon.

"All told, the testimony of former President Estrada did not add anything new to what can already be gathered from the various contracts. He even dug his own grave," Drilon said at a press conference yesterday.

Drilon said that during the Senate hearing, Estrada admitted the offer of a bribe but did not order the arrest of Jimenez, who was then a close ally of Estrada. "But more importantly, he signed the contract as witness," he said.

The Senate President pointed out that the bribe was offered during the Estrada administration, that Estrada signed the contract as witness and that the contract was approved during his time as President.

He said he could not understand the hullabaloo when Estrada tried to pass the blame on to the Macapagal administration.

At the Senate hearing, Estrada admitted that the contract was signed by his former finance secretary Jose Pardo.

Sen. Joker Arroyo, chair of the Senate blue ribbon committee, noted that the Jan. 24, 2001 opinion of then Justice Secretary Hernando Perez favoring the signing of the contract did not add anything to the contract.

Arroyo said that the justice secretary could not overrule the President and that the idea of the President signing the contract as witness was an insult to the executive secretary.

Arroyo said he had not seen a government transaction with the President of the Philippines signing as a witness.

"On the bribe offer, why is it that the attempt (to bribe) was made during the Estrada administration? The fact is there was an offer during his time as president, which means his administration was open to corruption. And there was indeed a suggestion, an offer of bribe," Arroyo said.

Drilon said Estrada's claim that a sovereign guarantee was given to Impsa's project was merely an expression of opinion which the former President may not be competent to testify on. Estrada claimed that under Perez' legal opinion, the government would shoulder the obligations of Impsa if it defaulted on its loans.

"Whether or not there was in fact a grant of sovereign guarantee on the part of the government is a legal question that would have to be resolved by the (Senate) committees," Drilon said. "Ultimately , however, it is only the courts that can come up with a definitive ruling on the issue," he said.

In Malacañang, presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said the bombshell that Estrada had promised to explode at the Senate hearing turned out to be a mere "watusi." A watusi is a relatively harmless firecracker. *With a report from Dona Pazzibugan*

UN says 25% of child soldiers serve in Asia

From page A1

tive for children and armed conflict, said he expected the council to adopt a resolution by the end of the week that would impose sanctions if those on the list failed to stop recruiting and using child soldiers.

A draft of the resolution obtained by The Associated Press would impose travel, financial, and arms restrictions if those on the list did not make "substantial progress in ending the recruitment and use of child combatants...within eight months."

"It's important to send a signal if improvement hasn't been made," Otunnu said, stressing that sanctions would only be imposed if countries and groups didn't halt the practice.

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan's third report on children and armed conflict—submitted to the 15-nation Security Council last month—included a list of 23 organizations and governments that recruit and use children as soldiers, including government and rebel groups in Burundi, Congo, Liberia, Somalia and Afghanistan.

The list only singled out countries and conflicts on the Security Council's official agenda, although Annan's report noted that children also have been recruited for combat in the Philippines, Colombia, Burma, Nepal, Sudan, northern Uganda and Sri Lanka.

"The tragic fact is that children continue to be victimized in the most cynical and cruel manner in conflicts around the world," Annan said during Tuesday's debate. "The time has come to ensure that the hard-won gains in crafting a protection regime for children are applied and put into practice on the ground."

Worst abusers

Deputy US Ambassador Richard Williamson and several other delegates asked Annan for an expanded list next year of the worst abusers of children in all conflicts, not only those being discussed by the world body.

"Our moral and legal obligations compel us to force these harmful practices . . . into the light of day," he said. "The crushing consequences on children in armed conflict must be ameliorated."

The draft resolution requested that Annan submit a report to the Security Council by Oct. 31 that would detail progress made by the parties on the list, and specific proposals on ways to ensure the most effective monitoring and reporting on the application of international standards.

Otunnu told the AP that there was widespread support to include all groups and governments accused of exploiting children in conflict on the list.

Congo's UN Ambassador Atoki Ileka defended his government, saying it had ended the use of child soldiers, but he said the volatile African nation needed financial support to end abuse among rebel groups.

The debate was sometimes politically charged, with the Israeli and Palestinian UN representatives trading blame for the suffering and deaths of children from both sides in renewed Middle East violence.

The United Nations estimates that some 300,000 children worldwide are being used as soldiers despite recent initiatives aimed at protecting them, including an optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which set an age limit of 18 for compulsory recruitment and direct participation in hostilities.

The statute establishing the International Criminal Court also classified the conscription, enlistment or use in hostilities of children under 15 as war crimes. *AP*

Opposition . . .

From page A1

boys' and the $7 million (Jimenez) did not mention anymore."

Lacson also mentioned the Coutts bank account in Hong Kong to which the $2 million was allegedly transferred.

On the day he allegedly received $2 million from Jimenez, Perez was shopping among the bargain shops in Hong Kong,

acting Justice Secretary Merceditas Gutierrez said yesterday.

Gutierrez said she remembered this distinctly as she accompanied her former boss to Hong Kong on Feb. 23, 2001.

Accompanied by a handful of justice department officials, Perez went to Hong Kong to sign the Mutual Legal Assistance Agreement.

Last November, Jimenez claimed that on that day he wired $2 million to Perez's account at the Coutts bank branch in Hong Kong. The congressman has accused Perez of extorting from him though he did not say for what.

At a news briefing in Malacañang, Gutierrez said she did not notice anything "suspicious" about Perez's actions that day.

"In fact, we shopped. We went to the alleys. You know those? So I thought if it's true (he got $2 million) why did we go to the alleys?" Gutierrez said, referring to the bargain shops. The former Batangas congressman is a known spendthrift.

Gutierrez said she did not see businessman Ernest Escaler or Chief Supt. Reynaldo Berroya on the plane back to Manila.

Jimenez claimed Escaler had arranged the wire transfer to the Coutts bank account. Berroya admitted having had lunch with Perez and Escaler in Hong Kong that day.

Perez at first denied being with Escaler in Hong Kong. After Berroya's disclosure, however, the former justice secretary said he did not have any bank transaction with Escaler.

Although he kept denying ever accepting money from Jimenez, Perez resigned earlier this month.

FOUR DIGIT
1 3 5 1
(In exact order)

SUERTRES
5 7 8

MEGALOTTO 6/45
3 5 13 21 22 43

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SPORTS

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BASKETBALL: NBA - Memphis vs Portland, 11 a.m. (r - 10 p.m.), Solar Sports, New Orleans vs LA Lakers, 7 p.m., IBC 13
World Pro Basketball Challenge, 5:30 p.m. (r), ESPN
TENNIS: Best of Wimbledon 2002, 9 a.m. and 10 p.m. (r), Star Sports
Hyundai Hopman Cup XV, 1 p.m. (r), Star Sports

3-YEAR CONTRACT

Red Bull offers Villanueva ₱8.1M

By Al S. Mendoza
Sports Editor

BATANG Red Bull, the back-to-back winner of the PBA Commissioner's Cup in 2001 and 2002, offered yesterday Enrico Villanueva P8.1 million in salaries spread in three years.

The deal was almost similar to the one inked yesterday by Mike Cortez of Alaska (*see related story*).

Villanueva, the Most Valuable Player of the UAAP for helping power Ateneo to the championship, will receive the maximum rookie pay of P150,000 a month for the first year of his contract.

He will receive P225,000 a month in 2004 and P300,000 a month in 2005.

Tony Chua and Andy Jao of Batang Red Bull met with Villanueva's group yesterday headed by the Blue Eagle's chief adviser, Arben Santos.

Both sides expressed satisfaction over the offer sheet, which included business concerns for Villanueva.

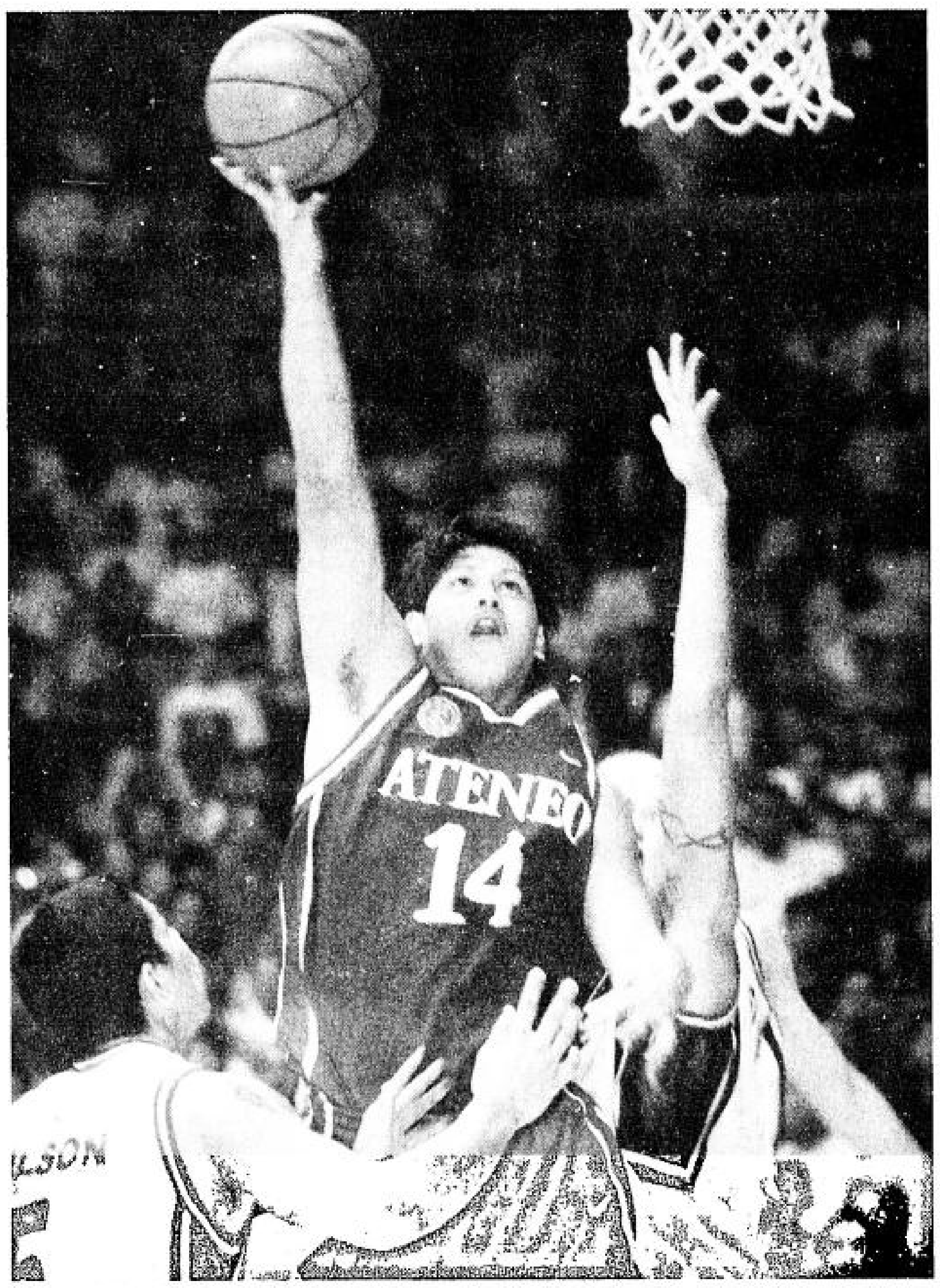
The former Blue Eagle was given the option to put up a franchise for Photokina, one of the many giant companies owned by Tony Chua's family.

The Red Bull mogul expressed joy over his acquisition of Villanueva, who became a media darling of sorts for his spectacular performance in the last UAAP season.

As a tribute to Villanueva, the Philippine Sportswriters Association made him the best amateur cager of 2002 during the glittering PSA Awards Night at the Holiday Inn.

Villanueva, a 6-foot-5 banger off both boards, is expected to fit to-a-T in the slot rotation for Red Bull coach Yeng Guiao.

"We will talk with Enrico's father immediately to discuss the offer sheet," said Santos. "But this early, we are inclined to recommend that Enrico accept the deal."



VILLANUEVA (No. 14): The 6-foot-5 Ateneo Blue Eagle is well on the way to hitting the big time.
PDI PHOTO

PBA board unsure of NBN-4's LC

By June Navarro

GOVERNMENT station NBN-4 yesterday complied with the letter of credit, which will guarantee payment for the television coverage of the PBA for the 2003 season.

NBN general manager Joey Isabelo handed the Manila Bank-issued LC over to PBA chair Jun Cabalan as the station met yesterday's deadline on the submission of the bank guarantee.

Cabalan told Isabelo that the LC, which has a monetary value of P200 million, would immediately be presented to the PBA Board of Governors so that the franchise agreement between the league and NBN be put in effect.

PBA Commissioner Noli Eala said the LC would signify the agreement between both parties sealed. If the board questions the LC, it would only be for clarification purposes, Eala said.

But in the event the board expressed dissatisfaction with the LC, Eala said the league has already prepared some alternatives to plug the loopholes.

Sources said the consortium of Bobong Velez would be asked to take over the television coverage of the PBA should NBN-4 fail to comply.

Manila Bank is not one of the five banks authorized by the PBA board to deal with them.

Best volleyball Jan. 19

AFTER a one-week postponement, the Milo Best Women's Volleyball League (WVL) unwraps on Jan. 19 with 32 teams vying for honors at the St. Benedict College courts in Alabang Hills. Defending elementary and high school champions PWU-JASMS and St. Theresa's College QC, respectively, banner the big field.

Cortez wants Ford Expedition

By June Navarro

THE LIFE of former La Salle star Mike Cortez in the Philippine Basketball Association formally took off yesterday after the top rookie pick sealed his three-year, P8.7-million deal with the Alaska Aces.

"It would definitely take a lot of adjustment to get used to the ways of the PBA and it's gonna be challenging for me," the 22-year-old Cortez told the INQUIRER.

Cortez, guaranteed with a monthly maximum rookie salary of P150,000 in his first year, said he would buy the Ford Expedition owned by Barangay Ginebra's Eric Menk.

Cortez, a 6-foot-flat point guard who was instrumental in giving the Green Archers two UAAP championships (2000-2001), joined the Aces' practice yesterday at the Moro Lorenzo gym.

"I'm happy with my contract. P8 million in three years? What more can you ask for?" said Cortez.

He said the criticisms he received after his anemic performance that cost La Salle the 2002 UAAP crown will never affect him.

"All those negative stuff they've thrown at me only motivates me more to play harder. But honestly, I want to forget all those things. It's all in the past, I must move on," said Cortez.

Cortez also said he would move his wife and 8-month-old son Jacob to his rented home in Merville, Parañaque.

Meanwhile, the Aces are interested in signing up rookies Brandon Lee Cablay, Eugene Tejada and Stephen Padilla.

Alaska team manager Joaqui Trillo said they are contemplating offering a three-year contract to Cablay, a Fil-American based in Hawaii who plays like Mark Caguioa of Ginebra, almost similar to the deal that Cortez got.

Shell has reportedly dangled offer sheets to No. 3 pick Eddie Laure, Adonis Sta. Maria and Ronald Tubid while unloading Art Del Rosario, Jojo Lim and Rob Wainwright from their roster.

RP quintet aspirants trimmed to 24

By Roy Luarca

PRESSED for time, Aric del Rosario and the national coaching staff yesterday decided to trim the Philippine team candidates' roster to 24.

The players, including two University of Visayas Lancers, will be asked to report to the tryouts being held at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum every night.

Invited to strut their stuff against the Manila-based aspirants were 6-foot-4 forward Neil Raneces and 6-foot-5 center Joseph Quinahan, who made a good account of themselves in the Battle of Champions.

Also being asked to show up are PBL standouts 6-foot-7 Irvin Sotto of Cheese Balls-Shark and 6-0 Peter June Simon of Dazz.

The other RP team aspirants are two-time UAAP MVP Rich Alvarez (6-4), Ranidel de Ocampo (6-6), Celino Cruz (5-8), Paul Artadi (6-0), Al Vergara (5-8), Lot Soriano (5-10), James Yap (6-3), Alan Omiping (6-1), Emerson Oreta (6-3), Jemal Vizcarra (6-1), slam dunk champion KJ Canaleta 6-6), Mark Isip (6-4), Marc Pingris (6-6), Bernzon Franco (6-5), Al Magpayo (6-5), Nurjamjam Alfad (6-5), BJ Manalo (6-0), Alwin Espiritu (6-5) and Christian Luanzon (6-4).

Though Del Rosario regrets the loss of several shooters and standouts to the pro ranks, he believes that he can still form a team strong enough to defend the country's Southeast Asia Basketball Association and Southeast Asian Games cage crowns this year.

Del Rosario said he wants a tall, fast team which can put up tough defense.

"Most of these players are young, strong and eager to play. To my mind these are important traits," said Del Rosario.

Basketball Association of the Philippines secretary general Graham Lim said if the national team succeeds in its defense of the SEABA men's crown in June, it will be sent to the Asian Basketball Confederation men's championship in China in September.

It's more than just golf at Baguio Country Club

THE BAGUIO Country Club scored big strides last year, an indication that the premiere club remains the place to visit up North.

The BCC hosted the 53rd Fil-Am Amateur Golf Tournament last December that saw more than 700 local and foreign players play.

The BCC also launched the third edition of the Nanoy Ilusorio Cup last month, a tournament that rolled pleasure and camaraderie into one among the club's member golfers.

These were just some of the activities that happened within the chilly domain of the BCC during the Yuletide season. It was but a taste of what BCC could offer that makes its club members keep on coming back.

Yet, the 93-year-old BCC has more events and amenities to offer than just golf. The Butler Service of the Rooms Division, the first of its kind in Northern Luzon, is one of the club's services that gave a new meaning to the word convenience.

It was created to elevate the standard of personalized service of the Club to that of a world-class level. Members who experienced the service could not help but commend it.

During the Christmas season, the BCC treated its members and guests with a concert that featured Pop Diva, Ms. Kuh Ledesma, with special guests Carlo Orosa and Isabella Gonzales.

The BCC also ended 2002 and started the year with a bang, pooling together the likes of Hajji Alejandro, Alynna and The Spirit of 67 Band as the highlight of the club's New Year's Dinner and Ball.

Cruz ace

ROSE Duavit-Cruz scored a hole-in-one on her birthday recently at the 120-yard 15th at Valley's Executive Course. She made the ace using a 4-iron men's club she used for the first time while playing with Baby Consunji and Jo Guevarra.

FOOTBALL CHAMPS
The Southridge School Midgets D Football Varsity Team recently emerged 2002 Champion of the Rizal Football Association. Victor Magat coached the team in the series sponsored by Chinatrust Bank, Enervon-C Plus and Terramycin. The members are (standing, left to right) Greggy Yang, Anthony Sunico, Troy Bautista, Paco Cojuangco, Miguel Itchon, Patrick Gonzales, Jamie Sunga and Magat. Sitting (left to right) are Daniel Khan, Abeng Remulla, Nicollo Ordoñez, Nathan Alquiroz, Raffy Anover, Adrian Bernardo, Karl Peralta.

Ozamis hosting NBL-Mayor's Cup

OZAMIZ City plays host to a big invitational basketball tournament when it stages the six-team NBL-Mayor's Cup on Jan. 27 to Feb. 1.

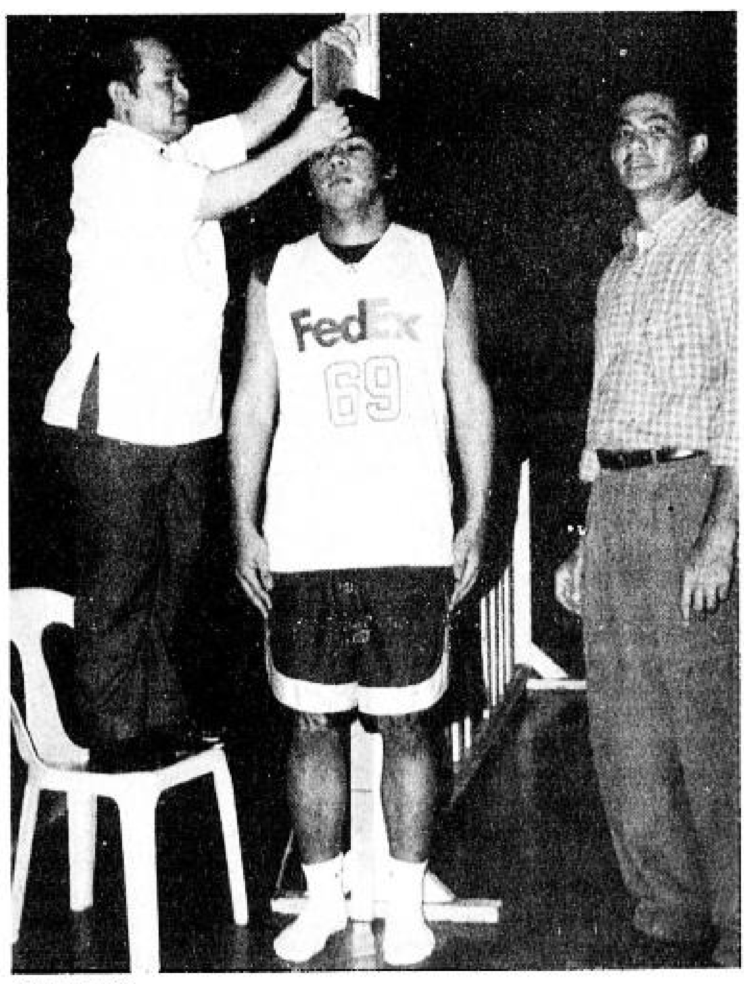
Arch-rivals Spring Cooking Oil of Malabon and M. Lhuillier of Cebu City lead the contenders in the six-day cagefest in honor of Ozamiz City Mayor Reynaldo Parahinog.

The reigning Interclub champion Cooking Oil Masters of national shooting titlist Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla and the Jewellers are expected to renew their fierce rivalry.

Also vying in the tourney which serves as the final preview for the National Basketball League's First Conference set starting on Feb. 22 in Metro Manila are Wangs Ball Club of Mandaluyong, Kwarta Padala of Mandaue, Cagayan de Oro City and host Ozamiz City.

Meanwhile, four games featuring all eight competing teams will kick off the NBL-CBL Sinulog Cup event on Jan. 21 at the Cebu Coliseum in Cebu City.

The matches, which start after a 30-minute opening ceremony, pit Lhuillier against Wangs at 2:30 p.m., Forward Taguig against Ozamiz City at 4, University of the East against Cagayan de Oro (Misamis Oriental) and Spring Cooking Oil against Kwarta Padala.



ONLY 16
Kevin Astorga, a FedEx training pool member, is being measured by BAP eligibility officer Rolly Tumapat for the Bert Lina-Six Foot Junior Basketball Cup set on Jan. 28. Astorga, 16, is 6-foot-3 and plays point guard for the RP training team. At right is Fritz Gaston, the tournament commissioner.

Archers battle Blades for semis slot

GAME TODAY *(Makati Coliseum)*
4 p.m.—ICTSI-La Salle vs LBC-Batangas

LIFTED by its 40-point conquest, ICTSI-La Salle aims for another win over LBC-Batangas today in the PBL Challenge Cup at the Makati Coliseum.

The Archers forced the decider when they overpowered the Blades, 79-39, last Monday at the Pasig Sports Center.

That smashing victory installed ICTSI the favorite to make it two straight over LBC and a win in their 4 p.m. contest would push the Archers to the semifinals.

DHL-NGAP Amateur tilt set

THE 8TH DHL-NGAP Amateur Golf Championship unfolds Jan. 28-31 at Canlubang's North course, once again serving as breeding ground for future champions and a battleground for the newest rivalry in Philippine amateur golf.

Presented by DHL Worldwide Express and WWW Express, the DHL Amateur brings together the biggest names in amateur golf-from the premier men's division to the women's bracket to the newly created seniors division.

From these ranks should emerge the new forces to take over from the likes of Angelo Que and Marlon Dizon, former DHL Amateur champions and national team mainstays who have moved on to the pro ranks last year.

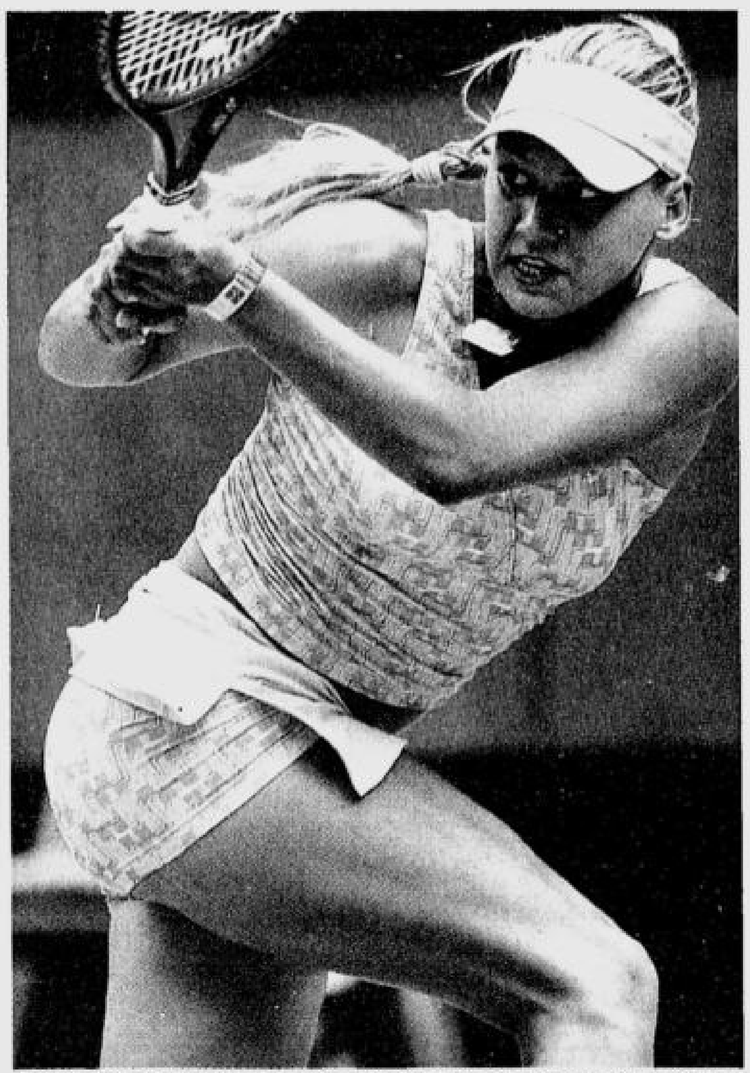
That honor should be a toss-up between Juvic Pagunsan and Jerome Delariarte, remnants of the Philippine team that placed a historic third in the last World Amateurs in Kuala Lumpur and now the vanguards of the national team.

"We're proud of the fact that the DHL Amateur has evolved into one of the biggest and most keenly awaited events in the golf calendar," said Rod Feliciano, DHL chair and president of the organizing National Golf Association of the Philippines.

With Que and Dizon no longer around, the attention is expected to shift to Pagunsan, the reigning Southeast Asian Games champion, and Delariarte, who grabbed the national amateur crown from buddy Que last year.

But it will by no means be a two-man fight, with emerging names like former caddies champion Jay Bayron and Del Monte ace and national player Paul Miñoza expected to crowd Delariarte and Pagunsan.

The battle for the women's crown is expected to be just as tight, with defending champion Carmelette Villaroman, top stars Heidi Chua, Aileen Rose Yao, Cangolf bet and Southern Ladies champion Lina de Guznian, Luzvimin champion Lora Roberto and Jungolf sensation Jayvee Agojo being tipped this early to figure prominently in the hunt.



KOURNIKOVA returns a shot against Henin-Hardenne. Kournikova lost the match, 6-0, 6-1. AP

Ucap 7-cock derby final round today

EXCITING fights from start to finish resume at Mandaluyong Coliseum when the 3rd Ucap 7-Cock Derby championship round gets going today.

Sponsors are Sagupaan Hammer Dewormer, Sagupaan Complexor 3000, Sagupaan Mite Free Shampoo and Washout Shampoo from Lakpue Drug Inc.

Longshot entry Anito of Palawan's Mauro Prieto, fresh from ruling the LGBA 6-Cock Inaugural Derby last month, posted three victories in the elimination round Tuesday to lead tonight's qualifiers.

Also with three wins are Johan Capinpin of Negros (J-Cap Mad AT RBA I) and derby co-host Sonny Lagon and Mayor Joel Brillantes (JT JBB Blue Blade), who are reportedly fielding the high-breaking Sweater Lemons from American breeder Bruce Barnett.

J-Cap Mad AT RBA II has 2.5 points while with two points are cockfight idol Patrick Antonio (Sagupaan Hammer), Jet Fernando (JSF-GP I), Bobby del Rosario and Sandy Javier (Mangzee Purple Haze RMR I), and ambassador Danding Cojuangco.

'Thunderbird' welcomed

THOUSANDS of cockers from all over the country welcome the launching of Thunderbird Power Feeds' newest product.

Thunderbird Hi-Protein Platinum, the country's market leader in gamefowl feeds and nutrition, pursue with its continuing effort and sincere commitment to help in the improvement and upliftment of the competition within the sport of cockfighting.

Thunderbird Hi-Protein Platinum is the improved and more scientific version of Thunderbird Hi-Protein Power Pellets, the company's first gamefowl feed product.

Agassi, Davenport win; Kournikova exits early

MELBOURNE, Australia—Former champion Lindsay Davenport rebounded from a disastrous first-set tiebreaker and a 1-3 final-set deficit Wednesday and reached the Australian Open's third round.

Davenport let a 6-3 lead in the tiebreaker slip away, and wasted break point opportunities in the final set's eighth game before beating Uzbekistan's Iroda Tulyaganova 6-7 (7), 6-4, 7-5.

Three-time men's champion Andre Agassi lost only the first game on his way to a 6-1, 6-0, 6-0 victory over Lee Hyung-taik.

Fourth-seeded Juan Carlos Ferrero, who lost to Lee in the Adidas International on Saturday, reached the third round here by beating Jean-Rene Lisnard 6-0, 6-4, 6-2.

Yevgeny Kafelnikov, besides Agassi the only former men's champion in the field, lost 6-3, 6-3, 3-6, 4-6, 6-1 to Finland's Jarkko Nieminen. Kafelnikov won the Australian in 1999 and was runner-up in 2000 but was seeded 22nd this time.

On the women's side, fifth-seeded Justine Henin-Hardenne needed only 48 minutes to beat former top 10 player Anna Kournikova 6-0, 6-1.

Kournikova, coming back from an ankle injury, double faulted six times, missed most of her volley attempts and committed 29 unforced errors.

Henin-Hardenne, the Wimbledon runner-up in 2001 and a semifinalist last year, next meets No. 32 Katarina Srebotnik, a 6-1, 6-7 (4), 6-3 winner over Virginie Razzano. *AP*

Another 69 keeps Salvador on top

DAVAO—The first man in stayed at the top of the standings for the rest of the day as the early-starting Elmer Salvador assembled a second straight three-under-par 69 in a hurry to remain infront by two strokes after the second round of the First Gentleman's Professional Golf Circuit seventh leg here.

Playing in a two-some that was sent off first in the back nine under an early morning drizzle, Salvador got his swing in the groove quick with a two-putt birdie on his third hole and encountered little trouble in duplicating his frontrunning score in Tuesday's opening at the well-kept Rancho Palos Verdes course.

As soon as Salvador checked in with the best 36-hole score of 138, he did what most of the pros have been doing: ask around how local idol Frankie Miñoza, here making his debut in the revived tour, was faring.

With a big gallery following him, Miñoza safely made the cut with a 73-150, 12 behind but definitely not to be counted out. It was a wild round for the superstar who had five birdies and lost a lot of strokes on the sleek greens.

Miñoza was in 23rd spot of the 40 names who qualified for the money rounds of this event organized for the sponsoring First Gentleman Mike Arroyo's foundation and San Miguel Beer by the Federation of Golf Clubs Philippines, Inc.

4 share Ladies lead

By Jong Arcano

THE TIGHT-GUARDING on Heidi Chua began right on opening day with Aileen Yao, Jayvie Agojo and Lora Roberto forging a four-way logjam for the lead in the 41st Phililippine Ladies Open golf championship at the Manila Golf Club course.

All four fired three-over-par 74s which proved auspicious considering the brand new conditions offered for an Open by the plush course with greens that are playing faster and some additional hazards to work against.

For Chua, it gave him a clear picture of the things to expect in the next two rounds: everybody just wants a piece of her.

The national team spearhead, however, needed a scrambling par on the 18th despite hitting from under the trees twice to get her share of the lead with the players who had holed out long ahead of her.

They finished the day with a one-shot lead over Lucy Landicho and Hong Kong's Betty Ng with Eva Yoe, another of the huge Hong Kong contingent's frontliners, scored a 77 to put herself very much in the hunt.

The cloudy day proved to be frustrating for Ria Denise Quiazon, the Fil-American national team mainstay, who left the clubhouse in a hush after an 80.

Agojo, who continued her rise as one of the world's foremost junior players last year, opened with birdies on the second and third holes. She was able to carry herself through eight holes until double-bogey mishaps hit her on the ninth and the 10th with a three-putt bogey on the 11th completing the disastrous stint.

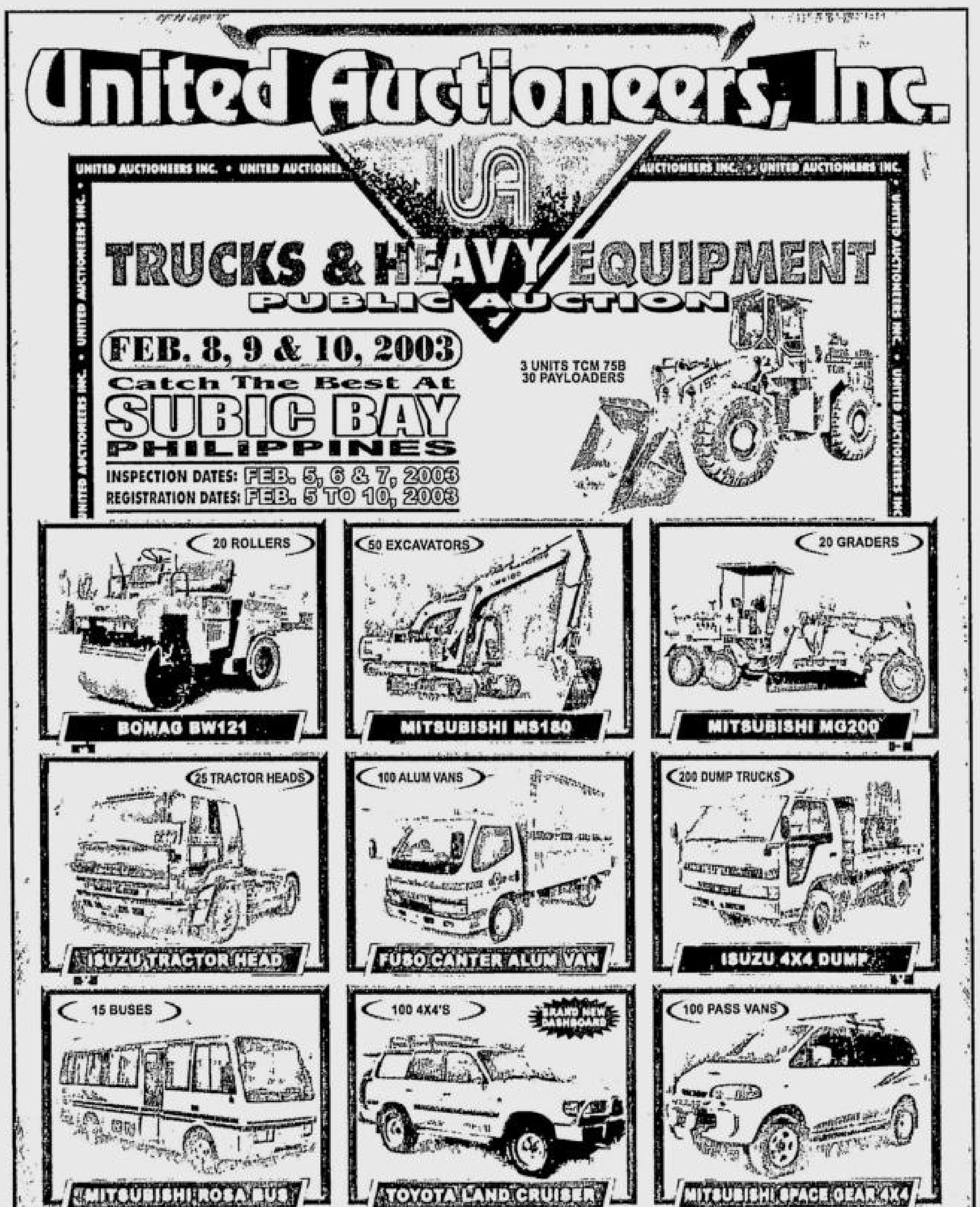
Baguio hosts Rotary meet

ROTARY of Bagumbayan sets out as the favorite to keep the overall team title with its big contingent ready for a tough battle ahead in the 17th edition of the Rotary Golfing Fellowship Foundation of the Philippines (RGFFP) golf tournament kicking off today at the Camp John Hay and Baguio Country Club courses in Baguio City.

The Bagumbayan golfers will be facing the challenge of at least 12 other Rotary clubs from all over the country and the field of no less than 200 have gone up to Baguio not just for the exciting competition but also to enjoy the cool climate.

At stake are the elegant Pewter plates flown in from Malaysia for the team winners in the Founders, Presidents, Governors and Fellowship divisions and individual champions in various handicap classifications.

Major sponsors for the event are Taylor Made, Casino Filipino/Pagcor and Smart Communications.



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Raptors devour Wizards

WASHINGTON—Rafer Alston and Damone Brown–players just signed from a developmental league–helped the injury-ravaged Toronto Raptors stun the Washington Wizards 84-75 in the NBA on Tuesday.

Alston, from National Basketball Development League team, the Revelers, had 13 points and 11 assists, while Brown, from the NBDL's Lowgators, added 13 points.

Jerome Williams scored 14 points and had a season-high 20 rebounds, and Morris Peterson had 21 points for the Raptors.

Michael Jordan scored 22 points for Washington, but he was just 3-for-12 in the second half. The Wizards played without Jerry Stackhouse, who has injured his groin. But that pales in comparison to a lengthy Raptors injury brigade headed by Vince Carter.

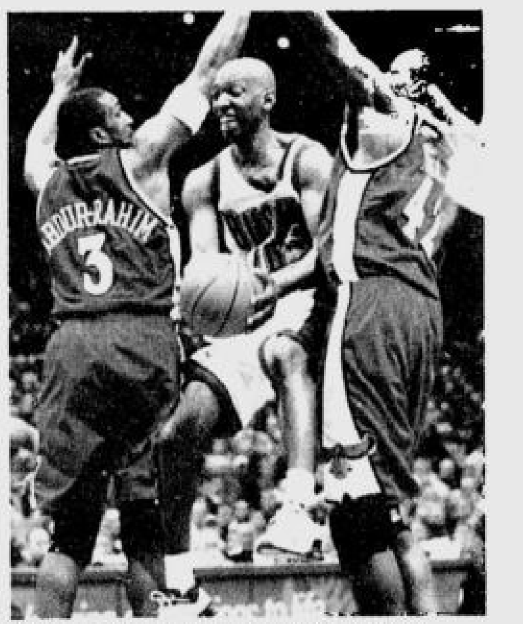
Knicks 98, Bulls 86

In New York, Allan Houston had 26 points, and Kurt Thomas added 24 and 13 rebounds as New York handed Chicago its 17th straight road loss.

Latrell Sprewell added 16 points for the Knicks. Thomas had his third straight double-double and 12th of the season as the Knicks didn't let the Bulls' young post players dominate like they did a night earlier in Chicago's 101-94 victory.

COMPLETE RESULTS

Toronto 84, Washington 75; New York 98, Chicago 86; Miami 88, Detroit 85; Milwaukee 97, Atlanta 88; San Antonio 108, Phoenix 100 (OT). *AP*



SAM Cassell (center) of the Milwaukee Bucks puts up a shot between Shareef Abdur-Rahim (left) and Theo Ratliff of the Atlanta Hawks. The Bucks defeated the Hawks, 97-88. AFP

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1991, Nathaniel 'Tac' Padilla notched 556 points to rule the standard pistol event in the shooting eliminations for the Philippine team to the Southeast Asian Games at the NRPA range in Quezon City.

Solar telecasts Kings-Mavs tiff

SOLAR Entertainment gives NBA fans a big treat today (Thursday, Jan. 16) when it features a classic game between the two top teams in the league, the Dallas Mavericks and the Sacramento Kings, when they clashed in Game Four of the 2002 Western Conference

Semifinals, at 9 a.m. on the daily show "NBA's Greatest Games" on Solar Sports, with a replay at 1:30 a.m. tomorrow.

Meanwhile, in the day's live NBA game on Solar Sports, the Memphis Grizzlies tackle the Portland Trailblazers at 11 a.m., with a replay at 10 p.m. And on IBC-13, the Los Angeles Lakers, winners of four straight games and seven of their last nine games, battle the New Orleans Hornets at 7:30 p.m.

RACING TIPS

AT SAN LAZARO BY MR. 999

Race 1--1. Sister Act/Sekreta 2. Hallmark 3. Conquer D Rose 4. Up Rising

Race 2--1. Noah's Ark 2. Traktora 3. Play the Field/Inner Silence

Race 3--1. Magara 2. Assunta de Rio 3. Key to Heaven 4. Del Mar 5. Impeccable

Race 4--1. Replica 2. Naughty

Race 5--1. Mr. Positive 2. Hong Kong Girl 3. Patutina

Race 6--1. Real Gem 2. Yours Truly 3. Royal Diamond 4. Premiere Act

Race 7--1. Sniper 2. Sharp Drive/Zero Gravity 3. Kusang Loob 4. Festive Charm 5. Super Star

Race 8--1. Heza Gunner 2. Gold Marlin 3. Scream for Chance

Race 9--1. Tochinic 2. Queen Storm 3. Nokaba 4. Cuadro de Alas 5. Men of Honor 6. Main Street

'Atienza' kills Lacuna aide

FELICISIMO Atienza, 35, no relation to Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, yesterday killed Herbert Laurente Sr., 50, an employee of Manila Vice Mayor Danilo Lacuna, in Pandacan. Police said an "old grudge" compelled Atienza to shoot Laurente in the head at around 7 a.m. Police said the shooting was not politically related. *P. Tubeza*

NBI witness tags Llamas killer

By Philip Tubeza

IT HAS been the motorcycle owner all along.

Trader Cola M. Ditato was tagged as the gunman who shot Ateneo law graduate Jose Ramon Llamas last week, based on the testimony of a National Bureau of Investigation witness who positively identified the suspect.

"(The witness) is 60 to 70 percent sure," said lawyer Hector Geologo, NBI-National Capital Region Unit executive officer.

Ditato, 38, of Block 21, Lot 3, Barangay Datu Esmael, Dasmariñas, Cavite, and his wife Norania are dry goods traders.

But Geologo said the couple's Kadiwa store at the public market has been closed since Sunday.

SLAY suspect Ditato

He said the male witness, who was also on board a motorcycle, saw Llamas' car bump the suspect's motorcycle on Friday afternoon.

"The suspect fell, but he was able to get back on his motorcycle and he followed the victim," Geologo said.

This more or less confirmed the initial finding that a petty traffic altercation led to the killing, Geologo said.

Geologo said the witness was able to identify Ditato through a picture of the suspect in 1998. Another witness had given it to the NBI.

"He was thinner then but (his face) bears a very close resemblance to the police sketch (of the culprit)," said NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco.

"It's a big step forward," Wycoco added. "The NBI and the police are now racing to arrest the suspect."

Geologo said Ditato has not returned to his native Marawi City.

"He was last seen Tuesday night in Cavite," Geologo said. "Our men are now going after him."

Ditato was initially linked to the Llamas case after Land Transportation Office records showed that the Kawasaki motorcycle, with Plate No. VM-2047, that the gunman used was his.

Cop official caught in CD pirates' den

By Christian Esguerra and Leila Salaverria

INTERIOR Secretary Joey Lina yesterday ordered the relief of the Lanao del Norte provincial police director who was caught in a raid in Maharlika Village, Taguig, where pirated compact discs were allegedly produced.

Senior Insp. Marlon Catan, head of the raiding team, said police became suspicious when the suspect, Senior Supt. Laud Sari, tried to take the search warrant the moment the raiders arrived at the compound where the suspect was staying.

Police are preparing criminal charges against Sari and 2 caretakers who were caught during the raid.

Around 500 officers of the Metro Manila police and members of the Videogram Regulatory Board stormed Maharlika at around 5 a.m. yesterday.

The raiders seized over P6 million worth of fake music and and video discs. Catan said the Maharlika link accounts for 50 percent of the illegal CD supply sold in Quiapo.

Keep your cool in Manila's traffic

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo, freed from the burdens of politics, has launched a no-nonsense campaign to cleanse the government bureaucracy of grafters and misfits.

In an opening salvo, she fired five officials of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) who were involved in the P139-million vehicle repair scam.

Her decision was based on a report to her by the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission (PAGC) finding the officials "guilty of dishonesty, grave misconduct, gross neglect of duty and conduct prejudicial to the best interest of the service."

* * *

If the PAGC inquiry into the shenanigans reportedly committed by Cebu Customs Collector Billy Bibit is as thorough as the one it conducted into the DPWH vehicle repair scam, Bibit's days at the Bureau of Customs are numbered.

The scams allegedly committed by Bibit at the Cebu International Port are far worse than the DPWH scam because they took place within a short period of time, whereas the vehicle repair scam was done over a number of years.

You will note that I said what Bibit committed were scams, instead of scam, because each misdeclared cargo that comes out of the Cebu customs zone is one scam. There are so many misdeclared cargoes in which importers defrauded the government of hundreds of thousands of pesos in tariffs.

* * *

If you can avoid it, don't get into an argument over a traffic incident in the streets of Metro Manila.

Keep calm and don't raise your voice on the other guy involved in the traffic incident, especially if you sense that the guy is armed.

Tempers flare and violence may erupt during a traffic incident.

* * *

Jose Luis R. Llamas, a promising Ateneo law graduate, was one of countless victims of traffic altercations. A La Salle graduate was shot dead in Greenhills a couple of years ago over a traffic altercation.

If your differences with the other fellow over traffic are minor, let him go. Make your insurance pay for the damage wrought by the other fellow.

Forget your ego and don't argue.

* * *

Believe me, it's easier said than done. I myself am hotheaded. I wouldn't want to lose an argument over traffic especially if I knew that the other fellow was at fault.

But I'm now trying my best to keep my cool in Metro Manila's irritating traffic jam.

I've had a bitter experience over a traffic situation and have learned from it.

* * *

While I was crossing an intersection in Makati some years ago, a speeding taxicab screeched to a halt and missed my car by a few inches.

I had the right of way because the traffic enforcer gave me the signal to cross while he motioned the cars traversing the other side of the intersection to stop.

I was so shaken by the incident that I got down from my car and confronted the driver.

* * *

One word led to another. I sensed that the cabbie, who was reeking of liquor, was about to make a move to strike me. Instinctively, I struck him first.

I paid dearly for that mistake. I had to settle with the driver out of court because I would surely be convicted. I paid him a big sum so he would no longer pursue the slight physical injuries case against me.

In a traffic altercation that results in violence, you kill or hurt the other fellow, or the other fellow hurts or kills you. Either way, you lose.

So, cool *ka lang* !

onstage 2nite

Cowboy Grill

Cowboy Grill	Cowboy Grill	Cowboy Grill
LAS PIÑAS ☎ 801.7644	J.BROTHERS HIMIG	AEGIS JAN.21
MABINI ☎ 525.1474	STREETLIFE MIXED-UP / SAINTS	NO ENTRANCE FEE
MALATE ☎ 521.8143	FAT 16 KOOLJACKS	NO ENTRANCE FEE
NOVALICHES ☎ 936.9757	SERSIDE CRO MAGNON	AEGIS JAN.28
BIÑAN ☎ (049)511.7268	MR. ROXY ICE KENDI	NO ENTRANCE FEE
TIA MARIA'S	TIA MARIA'S	TIA MARIA'S
JUPITER ☎ 890.4735	ZINJY JOSH	NO ENTRANCE FEE
REMEDIOS ☎ 522.0429	7TH ELEMENT BRIDGES	NO ENTRANCE FEE
TOMAS MORATO ☎ 371.1473	FIRST SIGHT	NO ENTRANCE FEE

JAN 16, THURSDAY 422-9877

The new SuperFerry 15
SuperFerry 15
SUPERFERRY 15
WOW Philippines
SuperFerry

The newest addition to our exciting fleet, SuperFerry 15, has the same breathtaking range of amenities and the same unique brand of service that has made SuperFerry the Filipino's premiere choice in sea travel. And with new convenience and safety features to meet the growing needs of the modern traveller, SuperFerry 15 gives you more reasons to enjoy the Philippines.

So come and experience the islands with us! It's not just a new ship, its a new standard in Philippine sea travel. The new SuperFerry 15. Kaya ano pang hinihintay 'nyo, sakay na!

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT: FASTPAK CEBU FERRIES RCPI | HOTLINE: (02)528-7000

ABS SuperSure

Pag-Asa ng Masa! Magbabalik na!

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

THURSDAY, JANUARY 16, 2003

Email: pr_pep@inquirer.com.ph

People, Events & Products

Aries Espinosa, Editor

aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Newest addition to Leisure Farm's demo farms

LANDCO'S Leisure Farms together with Figaro Coffee Foundation co-sponsored a tree planting activity aimed to save the *Barako*, the only coffee variety indigenous to the Philippines. Held last Dec. 14, the 4,780 sqm Figaro Coffee Farm is the newest addition to the Leisure Farms Agritainment Community.

The *Barako* also known as the Philippine Liberica is known for its particularly strong taste, powerful body and distinctively pungent odor. The *Barako* is sadly on its way to extinction. In fact, we need to plant 100,000 *Barako* trees within the next five years for it to survive. Figaro will be providing the technology for the demo farm whereas Leisure Farms will be responsible for the planting of the organic coffee and produce. Also part of the partnership agreement is a coming out of a Leisure Farms Organic Coffee blend using the Leisure Farms produce to be sold at the future Figaro Café found at the site.

Located in the cool breezy heights of Metro Tagaytay (just 1 ½ hours from Metro Manila), Leisure Farms, the first of its kind in the country, is the newest, freshest weekend place, a blooming agricultural community in a refreshing, relaxing environment. On rolling terrain of healthy, porous clay loam soil, the best kind for farming, Leisure Farms is divided into 1000-1500 sqm lots. Lot owners are offered farm management services-contract growing, a supply depot, technical support and demo farms. The demo farms features a coffee farm by Figaro, a children's outdoor playground, herb garden and dairy farm, among others, plus modern agricultural technology such as hydrophonics, vermicomposting, and hybrid fruits and vegetables. Other site features include a campsite, fishing lake, swimming pool and bridie path.

Leisure Farms provides weekend farmers with the best in agriculture and leisure without the hassle, enabling one to rediscover the bounty of nature in a refreshing community far enough, yet not too far, from the busy city. Leisure Farms is owned and developed by Landco Pacific Corporation.

To learn more about Leisure Farms, call 807-8754 loc. 375.

Ace Saatchi opens first Ideas Gallery

Ace Saatchi & Saatchi, one of the top five advertising agencies in the country opened the SAATCHI IDEAS GALLERY last December 16. A first in the Advertising industry locally and globally, the gallery was born out of Saatchi's vision worldwide: to be revered as a hothouse for world-changing ideas.

More than an exhibit, the Saatchi Ideas Gallery was a celebration of Saatchi creativity. More than a celebration, it was a gift to their clients in appreciation for all the trust and confidence that they showed the agency through the years.

"The "works of art" in the gallery were all "labors of love" as Ace Saatchi's Executive Creative Director MerleeCruz-Jayme described it. Without missing the regular deadlines, the creative teams put on extra hours to work on briefs for all their clients.

As a creative exercise, each team was assigned products that they do not usually handle on a day-to-day basis. The challenge was to come up with work that is fresher and more surprising. Invited for the first virst viewing of the ads was Hongkong-based Saatchi & Saatchi Regional Creative Director Craig Davis (also this year's Adfest Chairman)

The affair was hosted by Mr. Boy Abunda. Ace Saatchi President Rey G.Icasas welcomed the distinguished guests: Senator Loren Legarda, Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, Ms.Winnie Monsod , soon-to-be-National Artist Mr. Malang and Ace Saatchi's clients:

Ayala Malls; Bisolvon; Coca-Cola; Dream TV; Enchanted Kingdom; Manila Pen; Magnolia; Max's Restaurant; Music One; Penshoppe; Petron; PLDT; P&G; San Miguel; SCA (Softee); Sharp; SMART; Sonera Zed; Toyota; UCPB

The Saatchi Ideas Gallery was open only to Saatchi clients and students From December 17 to 19.

Key Personnel:
Rey Icasas, President
Cid Reyes, VP Chief Creative Officer
Merlee Jayme, VP Executive Creative Director
Jing Villacorta, VP Strategic Planning
Glenn Banguis, VP Media
Elaine Go, VP Client Services Director
Gigi Garcia, VP Client Services Director
Fred Samonte, VP Finance

Special Thanks to:
Dante Mendoza, Production Designer
Production Village
Photographers:
Ruben dela Cruz
Francis Rivers/Paolo Gripo
Caloy Legaspi
Joey Ibay
Jeanne Young
Raul Montefar
Bien Bautista

REGIONAL creative director Craig Davis chats with Sen. Loren Legarda and Ace Saatchi president Rey G. Icasas

ROBINSONS MALLS GIVE AWAY 2 FORD RANGERS

The Robinsons Malls recently awarded 2 lucky shoppers with a brand new Ford Ranger 4x4 in connection with the recently concluded Great Robinsons Giveaway, which was held at Robinsons Starmills Pampanga and Robinsons Metro East. The lucky winners, regular shoppers of these malls are Susan Ticao of Antipolo City (bottom photo) and Anna Marie P. Celes of Angeles Pampanga (top photo). The Great Robinsons Giveaway raffle promo was held in Robinsons Starmills Pampanga and Robinsons Metro East. This promo event was in collaboration with Big R Supercenter, Robinsons Department Store, Food Court and Robinsons Movieworld cinemas. Minor prizes including Coleman cooler sets, 5219 cellphones and a mountainbike were also raffled off.

Preferred Banking

BRIGHT PROSPECTS NOTED AT AIG ECONOMIC BRIEFING

In an exclusive economic briefing for clients of Philambank's AIG Preferred Banking, Dr. Bernardo M. Villegas and Dr. Emilio Antonio, dean and vice dean respectively, of the school of economics, University of Asia and the Pacific (UA&P), said that in spite of its current problems, the Philippines still enjoys major advantages that will see it through 2003 and the years beyond. Among sunrise industries the two economists identified are food, furniture, fashion and fun, transport, telecoms, and tourism as well as IT-enabled services, healthcare and educational services. Shown in photo at the economic briefing held at the Philam Tower are (from left) Rolando C. Tanchanco, president of Philambank; Anna U. Yap, vice president for marketing, Philambank; Dr. Villegas; Dr. Antonio and Jose L. Cuisia Jr., Philambank chair. AIG Preferred Banking is a highly specialized service created just more than a year ago by the AIG Consumer Finance group (of financial services world leader American International Group), and Philamlife, the country's leading life insurance company. For more information on AIG Preferred Banking, call hotline 636-8367.

Sinulog Festival at SM City Cebu

SM CITY Cebu will celebrate the homegrown Sinulog Festival with exciting and exotic tribal dancing, concerts and exhibits this January.

For the past four hundred years, Cebuanos have honored the miraculous Santo de Niño de Cebu through the sinulog, a wedding dance of the ancient hilltop tribes in the town of Alimodian. Legend has it that the Santo Niño, to whom many miracles are attributed, was found swept on the island's shores hundreds of years ago, and the Cebuanos have since considered the Christ Child their patron.

Part religious ceremony, part folk tradition and part Mardi Gras, the festivities have since evolved to become a major tourist attraction in the Queen City of the South. Today, dancers in spectacular tribal costumes gracefully move to the rhythm of the ocean waves that brought the Holy Child from a land far away. Revelers and devotees *chant "Pit Señor! Viva Santo Niño!"* as they raise up their statues.

A joint project with Islands Souvenirs, the Sinulog Festival 2003, gives mallgoers a glimpse of celebrations past with the Sinulog photo exhibit. Ongoing until Jan. 20 at the upper ground floor, SM City Cebu, the exhibit is a project of the Sinulog Foundation.

Pretty little girls can likewise join Home Radio's search for Little Miss Sinulog tomorrow, at the Entertaiment Plaza at 5 p.m.

This is a great time to visit the mall not only for fun, but also for shopping at the mall wide Philippine Grand Fiesta Sale where shoppers can get up to 50 percent discount from the malls participating tenants from Jan. 15 to 31. 'Tis also the time for bargains at the 4th Sinulog Export Overruns and Consumer Bazaar, while it's ongoing until Jan. 20 at the Cebu Trade Hall. The bazaar is organized by the L.A. Ducut and Company.

There's also a lot of Sinulog Mall Dancing where dance troupes from different Cebuano schools and universities revel around the mall, and then proceed to the Entertainment Plaza for more native dancing. These festivities take place every weekend at 5 p.m. at SM City Cebu.

Festivities took on a cultural edge as the world famous Ramon Obusan Folkloric Group performs at SM City Cebu's Theatre One last Jan. 14 in cooperation with the Arts Council of Cebu.

Home bands take center stage in Islands Souvenirs Sinulog Concert Series which featured popular Cebuano bands like Johnnie last Jan. 14; Burning Culture yesterday; and Lick which will be performing today at 5 p.m. at the Entertainment Plaza.

Sinulog is also party time, and San Miguel Beer celebrates with a two-day Sinulog Street Party at the north parking area. Manila based band K247 and hot Cebu bands No Such Thing, Burning Culture, Johnnie, Pyramid, and Centerfold play to thrill and chill on Jan. 18. The partying continues on Jan. 19 with Cebu bands Stage Crew, SRO, Who's Next, Frank, Wet Thing, and Cueshe jamming it out.

Adding star power to SM City Cebu's Sinulog festivities is Ogie Alcasid, who flies in to launch his newest album, Neo Records OA sa Hits Live at the Cebu Trade Hall 1 on Jan. 18 at 2:30 p.m. Later in the afternoon, Bum Equipment in cooperation with Islands Souvenirs, will have a gala show featuring Danilo Barrios and Heart Evangelista at the Entertainment Plaza.

On Jan. 19, the day of the festival, sultry star Ina Raymundo stars in the Grand Sinulog Show at the Entertainment Plaza at 4 p.m.

After the celebrations, mallgoers can check out the different resorts and tourist spots in the region in the Visayan Travelmart at the Cebu Trade Hall on Jan. 24, 25 and 26.

Celebrate Sinulog 2003 at SM City Cebu.

Sinulog Spec
FEA NG
of Cebu

UNIVERSITY of Cebu's Balintawak Dance Company perform a number from the Mountain Province.

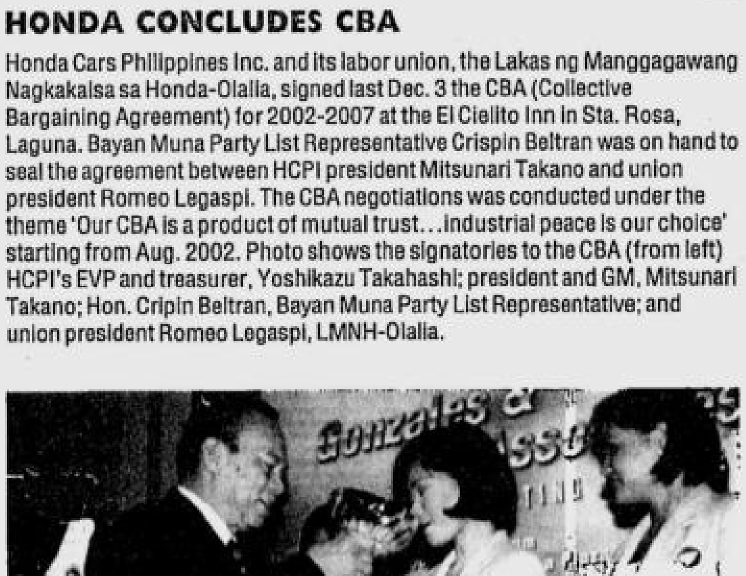
DURING the Sinulog celebration, devotees hold up the Sto Niño, the patron of the festival. Photo shows the University of Cebu's Balintawak Dance Company celebrating at SM City Cebu.

THE UNIVERSITY of Cebu's Balintawak Dance Company perform the singkil in SM City Cebu's 'Sinulog Mall Dancing'.

SIGNING CEREMONY
2002-2007 COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT (CBA)
EL CIELITO INN - STA.ROSA, LAGUNA
03 DECEMBER 2002

HONDA CONCLUDES CBA

Honda Cars Philippines Inc. and its labor union, the Lakas ng Manggagawang Nagkakaisa sa Honda-Olalia, signed last Dec. 3 the CBA (Collective Bargaining Agreement) for 2002-2007 at the El Cielito Inn in Sta. Rosa, Laguna. Bayan Muna Party List Representative Crispin Beltran was on hand to seal the agreement between HCPI president Mitsunari Takano and union president Romeo Legaspi. The CBA negotiations was conducted under the theme 'Our CBA is a product of mutual trust…industrial peace is our choice' starting from Aug. 2002. Photo shows the signatories to the CBA (from left) HCPI's EVP and treasurer, Yoshikazu Takahashi; president and GM, Mitsunari Takano; Hon. Cripin Beltran, Bayan Muna Party List Representative; and union president Romeo Legaspi, LMNH-Olalia.



AWARD FOR MARKETING EXCELLENCE

Philam Plans Agency Manager Mylene Gonzales (2nd from left) experiences the sweet taste of success as senior adviser and former president and CEO Eliseo P. Dizon Jr. (leftmost) commends her for her agency's excellent performance. The ceremony was recently held at the Isla III Ballroom of the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel Highlight of the program was the sipping of champagne from the AME Cup amongst agency members to symbolize how success is shared with everybody in the team.

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People, Events & Products

Aries Espinosa, Editor
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Project Beacon: Helping the government light up the nation

THE STATISTICS in the country are dismal yet clear: there were still 8,348 barangays out of the total 41,995 or roughly 20 percent without electricity as of yearend 2000. In that same year, 1,366 barangays were energized through the joint effort of the government and concerned private companies.

But it still does not stop there. From Jan. to July 2001, a total of 633 barangays were energized, bringing the energization level to 81.6 percent. Yet the objective of providing 100 percent energization to all barangays – given the slow pace of infrastructure development and the government's financial woes – will not be achieved without the participation of the private sector.

That's why Mirant Philippines, through its corporate social responsibility (CSR) arm, Mirant Phils. Foundation, resolved to lend "a helping arm" to the government in order to achieve the elusive goal: to light up the nation. The power generating company has conceptualized Project Beacon or (Barangay Electrification Assistance to the Countryside) to support the Department of Energy's O-Ilaw program.

Together, Mirant and the DOE will synergize their efforts and help bring much-needed electricity to far-flung and isolated barangays in the countryside that up to now haven't had a taste of energization in their lifetime.

According to National Electrification Administration (NEA) deputy director for cooperatives development and special projects Edita Bueno, Mirant's participation in the O-Ilaw program has come to such an opportune time. And the government really needs all the support it can muster. The O-Ilaw program strives to electrify 85 percent energization of all barangays in the country by June 2002, 95 percent by year 2004 and 100 percent by year 2006.

Mirant Phils. Foundation's Project Beacon is wrapping up its work anytime soon. On or before Christmas time, Project Beacon will provide energization to 1,026 barangays nationwide. Amounting to P1 billion (US$20 million), Project Beacon is the country's largest corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiative that will benefit 33 provinces and 44 cooperatives covering at least 300,000 households nationwide.

Mirant Phils. Foundation executive director Roberto Calingo mentioned that project Beacon is the company's tangible contribution to the country's rural electrification program. Project Beacon has indeed driven the O-Ilaw program to greater heights and speeded up the country's journey to progress.

Lately, things are starting to "light up" for many of our countrymen. Children and adults can now say goodbye to those obsolete gas lamps and coal-operated appliances inside their homes. With the present rural electrification program in full gear, more Filipino households have now better reasons to celebrate the new year in a better lighted environ.

2002
-Ender
nce

GARDENIA PHILIPPINES BAGS AWARD

Gardenia Bakeries Philippines Inc. (GBPI), makers of world-class breads, received the National Consumers Excellence Award as the 2002 Outstanding Loafbread Manufacturer at the 19th Year-Ender Excellence Awards 2002 held recently at the AFP Theater, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City. GBPI implements strict quality control using the most advanced technology combined with top quality ingredients in making world-class breads noted for their good taste, freshness, softness, oven-baked aroma, and nutritive value. Gardenia Philippines offers a wide range of superior bread products including Gardenia Classic, High Fiber Wheat Bread, High Calcium Loaf, Chocolate Chip Loaf, California Raisin Loaf and Double Delights. Photo shows Debbie Go, GBPI's product manager (third from left); Nestor Constancia, GBPI sales and marketing manager (fourth from left); and Ninoh Jallores, GBPI's manufacturing manager (fifth from left) together with presentors.

P&A IS A HOME TO CPA TOPNOTCHERS

Punongbayan & Araullo (P&A) the country's leading CPA firm in the Philippines, takes pride in its recently hired auditors when they led the 2002 national CPA licensure examinations. Photo shows P&A's topnotchers with the P&A partners who conducted an audit methology training for this new breed of highly competent auditors: (from left) audit partner Leonardo Cuaresma Jr. and Lilian Linsangan, together with Stevenson Yu (15th place), Mariam Suson (14th place), Sofronia Perez (8th place), Alvie Marie Sojor (9th place), Melvin Lopena (15th place), Alison Pangilinan (10th place), and technical training partner Dally Duque. P&A is the organization of accounting and consulting firms.

Guidebook for NGOs, Foundations, LGUs and Non-Profit Organizations

IF YOU are an NGO / Foundation or a Local Government Unit (LGU) looking for funding, the Proposal Writing Guidebook will help you write better proposals and increase the chances of approval of your worthy project proposals when submitted to local and international agencies for funding.

The guidebook is the first of its kind to be written as your total NGO / Foundation resource in writing winning and successful proposals for funding of Grant Agencies.

It is one of the best-written guidebook that can help NGOs/Foundations, LGUs and other non-profit organizations prepare worthwhile community project proposals that aim to help underprivileged or disadvantaged members of our community. These project proposals could be drug prevention and awareness programs; family planning programs; health education programs; environmental issues; micro credit / micro finance; poverty alleviation programs; social services; and other worthwhile community based projects that will lead to the betterment of the lives of the people living in our community.

The guidebook comes with a detachable workbook template that will let NGOs / Foundations, LGUs, and other non-profit organizations use it to write their community and social oriented proposals.

It also provides a ready wealth of information and resources on international and Philippine funding sources. Also, the detachable exercise workbook can be used by proposal writers to hone their writing proposal skills and they can use it as their blueprint when writing their actual proposals.

Interested NGOs, Foundations, LGUs and other non-profit organizations who wish to get a copy of the Proposal Writing Guidebook may contact Tritium Knowledge Center at 531-0084 or 0919-229-9780 for order inquiries. Or they may send an email to tkcp_ph@yahoo.com for inquiries.

KODAK SPONSORS WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES

Tony A. Cinco, Kodak Philippines general manager, hand over a Kodak LS443 easyshare digital camera to His Eminence Jaime Cardinal Sin during the signing of a memorandum of agreement between Kodak and the Central Committee of the Fourth World Meeting of Families represented by Ambassador Henrietta T. De Villa (fourth from left). Kodak Philippines has committed to sponsor the identification cards and badges during the 4th World Meeting of Families in Manila on Jan. 22 to 26. The leading photo and film developer also gave a donation of P500,000 for the event. Also present during the signing were Bishop Soc Villegas (6th from left), Timmy Jayme (2nd from left), Kodak Philippines marketing operations manager for consumer imaging and Gizelle Villacorta (1st from left), Kodak Philippines marketing communications specialist for consumer imaging.

Product FILES

E. Excel Vegiwash and Handygel

GIVE your family quality products from E. Excel – Vegiwash and Handygel. Vegiwash effectively removes unwanted chemicals, waxy coatings, germs, and molds from fruits and vegetables, leaving them fit for us to eat. Handygel, on the other hand cleanses your hands of germs and bacteria without the use of soap or water, quickly killing most germs and helping to prevent the spread of infectious diseases. Try these great products now.

BITS & Clips

Rinaldi Servant Leader awarded

THE DON Bosco Alumni Philippine National Federation Inc. and the Salesians of Don-Bosco-Philippines have recently launched the first ever Blessed Philip Rinaldi Servant Leader Award. Nominations have poured in from each of the 9 Don Bosco alumni chapters in Nueva Ecija, Tarlac, Pampanga, Makati, Mandaluyong, Tondo, Canlubang, Sta. Cruz and the alumni of Salesian Houses. The recognition will be held tonight at 6:30 p.m. at the New World Hotel in Makati City. The awarding also coincides with the rare visit to the Philippines of the Rector Major of the Salesians of Don Bosco, Rev. Fr. Pascual Chavez, the 9th successor of St. John Bosco. Blessed Philip Rinaldi was the 3rd successor of St. John Bosco and was beatified by Pope John Paul II in April 1990. For details, call the national federation office at 713-0154 or any local chapter.

Concerto to Bicol, Manila

PIANISTS Ingrid Sala Santamaria and US-based Maestro Reynaldo G. Reyes will take their Romantic Piano Concerto Journey (RCPJ) to Legazpi City today, Jan. 16, at 5 p.m. at the Albay Astrodome. The journey comes back to Metro Manila for a three-day festival starting Jan. 17 with the Supreme Court of the Philippines at 3 p.m., Jan. 18 at Rizal Park at 5 p.m., and Jan. 19 at Intramuros at 5 p.m. The project is assisted by the Department of Tourism for the Visit the Philippines 2003. The Romantic Piano Concerto Journey can be viewed on TV in NBN Channel 4's "Concert at the Park". For more information, call Ms Boston at 722-5148 or 412-3867.

Corregidor as tourist destination

CORREGIDOR, commonly referred to as The Rock, is a must-see tourist destination for its distinct place in Philippine history. In World War II, it was the last refuge of the Philippine and American forces against the invading Japanese forces. Today, it will be the site of a photo safari dubbed "McGregor on the Rocks." Tourist-photo buffs can join the photo safari and get the chance to see the landmarks and learn practical tips on photography. Don McGregor of Vancouver, Canada shares his expertise and knowledge on environmental portraiture. Assembly time is at 7:30 a.m. at the ferryboat terminal at the back of CCP. The workshop serves as the opening salvo of Photoworld Manila 2003 to be held from Jan. 17 to 22 at Glorietta, Ayala Center, Makati City.

PCCHS class '63 grand reunion

THE PHILIPPINE College of Commerce High School Batch '63 will celebrate its 40th anniversary with a grand reunion on Jan. 18 at the Bureau of Soils and Water Management Convention Hall, Quezon Memorial Circle corner Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City. Admission is free. Registration starts at 1 p.m. Call Belma Cristobal-Orca at 527-7651/57 local 202, or Ramon San at 942-3588 for more details.

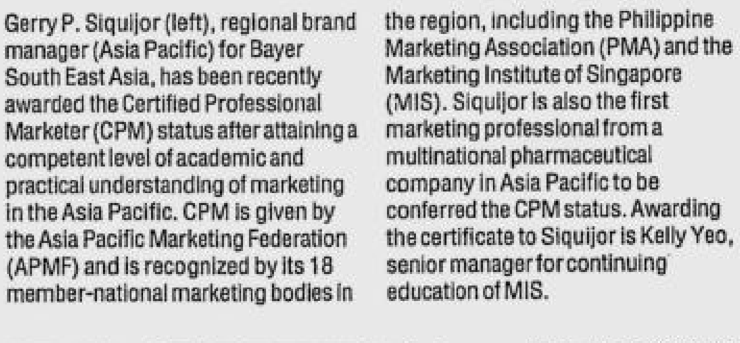
Lake Shore Batch '79 grand reunion

BATCH '79 of the Lake Shore Educational Institution will hold its 25th grand reunion on Jan. 18 in Golden Meadow, Binan, Laguna. The celebration starts at 3 p.m. All batch mates are invited to this once-in-a-lifetime affair.

MARKETING
INSTITUTE
SINGAPORE

CERTIFIED PROFESSSIONAL MARKETER

Gerry P. Siquijor (left), regional brand manager (Asia Pacific) for Bayer South East Asia, has been recently awarded the Certified Professional Marketer (CPM) status after attaining a competent level of academic and practical understanding of marketing in the Asia Pacific. CPM is given by the Asia Pacific Marketing Federation (APMF) and is recognized by its 18 member-national marketing bodies in the region, including the Philippine Marketing Association (PMA) and the Marketing Institute of Singapore (MIS). Siquijor is also the first marketing professional from a multinational pharmaceutical company in Asia Pacific to be conferred the CPM status. Awarding the certificate to Siquijor is Kelly Yeo, senior manager for continuing education of MIS.



MONTEREY IN MARIKINA

Marikina, Metro Manila's cleanest and greenest city, is host to a newly opened Monterey Meatshop, which is located at the # 65 Bayan-Bayanan Ave., River City Arcade, Marikina Heights, Marikina City. Discriminating Marikeños can now enjoy lean and tender meats, and ready-to-cook, marinated dishes that make life easier for hardworking homemakers. Monterey products are guaranteed high-grade quality because they come from the cleanest, most modern and environment-friendly slaughter facility in the country. Shown in photo are from left: Ludy So; Brgy. Capt. Raul Taytayan; Ito So, franchisee; Fr. Bert Alegre; Joal Arellano, Monterey franchise operations manager.

New year, new bar

OPENING its doors to partygoers and club hoppers this year is a multi-room concept bar at the heart of Makati. Expect Industry Lounge to be the next favorite party place of music and dance fanatics as it formally opens Jan. 18 from 6 p.m. onwards. Industry Lounge along Filmore Street, Makati, will be open from Tuesday to Sunday, 8 p.m. until the break of dawn. For more information, call 550-1965.

For sreening times, call 729-7777.
Schedules are subject to change without prior notice.

AYALA CINEMAS NOW SHOWING

ALL DIGITAL SOUND CINEMAS

G1 GLORIETTA 1

RING (ORIG. JAPAN) / THE RING (HOLLYWOOD)
HALF PAST DEAD
THE LORD OF THE RINGS: TWO TOWERS
THE LORD OF THE RINGS: TWO TOWERS

G4 GLORIETTA 4

LOTR: TWO TOWERS / THE RING (Hollywood)
2 THE LORD OF THE RINGS: TWO TOWERS
3 THE LORD OF THE RINGS: TWO TOWERS 11:30, 3:10, 6:50, 10:30
4 HALF PAST DEAD
5 HEAVEN
6 THE LORD OF THE RINGS: TWO TOWERS
7 RING (ORIGINAL JAPANESE VERSION)

GB1 GREENBELT 1

1 RING (ORIGINAL JAPANESE VERSION)
THE LORD OF THE RINGS: TWO TOWERS
Onstage JOSE MARI CHAN - HEART OF A SONG WRITER Jan. 17 - 18 / 9PM

GB3 GREENBELT 3

THE LORD OF THE RINGS: TWO TOWERS 11:30, 3:00, 6:30, 10:00
THE LORD OF THE RINGS: TWO TOWERS 12:10, 3:40, 7:10, 10:40
THE LORD OF THE RINGS: TWO TOWERS 12:50, 4:20, 7:50, 11:20
LOTR: TWO TOWERS 1:30, 5:00 THE RING (HOLLYWOOD) 9:00 PM
HALF PAST DEAD 12:05, 2:20, 4:35, 6:50, 9:05, 11:20

ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER

THE LORD OF THE RINGS: TWO TOWERS
THE LORD OF THE RINGS: TWO TOWERS
THE LORD OF THE RINGS: TWO TOWERS
4 HALF PAST DEAD
5 LOTR: TWO TOWERS / THE RING (HOLLYWOOD)

Reserve your seats by texting "SURESEATS G4 (or any Ayala Cinemas) and send to 2333.
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MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE
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1 (DOLBY) LORD OF THE RING
2 (SDDS) LORD OF THE RING
3 (DTS) MANO PO
4 GOLD (DTS ES) HEAVEN
5 GOLD (DOLBY EX) LORD OF THE RING
6 GOLD (SDDS) HALF PAST DEAD
7 GOLD (DOLBY EX) HALF PAST DEAD
8 LASTIKMAN
9 SPIRIT WARRIOR THE SHORT CUT
10 LORD OF THE RING

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486
1 LASTIKMAN
2 BANGKERO
3 (DTS) RESERVE
4 RESERVE
5 RESERVE
6 (DTS) RESERVE
Golden Pearl THX RESERVE

Masagana CINEMA ①②&③
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 LORD OF THE RING
2 HALF PAST DEAD
3 KERIDA

starmall Movies
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(Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986
1 HALF PAST DEAD
2 LASTIKMAN
3 BANGKERO
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) LORD OF THE RING
5 KERIDA

METROPOLIS star
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(Alabang) tel 850.4285
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2 LASTIKMAN
3 BANGKERO
4 LORD OF THE RING
5 KERIDA
6 HALF PAST DEAD

M star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Las Pinas)
tel 873.5004
1 HALF PAST DEAD
2 AGIMAT

PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) tel 751.2010 to13
LORD OF THE RING

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 MANO PO
2 LASTIKMAN

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL INC
tel 930.9515
1 RESERVE
2 KERIDA
3 BANGKERO

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376
1 HALF PAST DEAD
2 LASTIKMAN
3 BANGKERO
4 RESERVE

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8588
1 (SDDS) LORD OF THE RING
4 KERIDA
5 MANO PO
6 BANGKERO
7 (DTS) HEAVEN
8 (SDDS) HALF PAST DEAD
9 (DOLBY) LORD OF THE RING

Gotesco Caloocan
tel 362.3508
2 RESERVE

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 365.7928
1 KERIDA
2 LASTIKMAN
3 BANGKERO
4 (SDDS) HALF PAST DEAD
5 SPIRIT WARRIOR THE SHORT CUT
6 (DOLBY) LORD OF THE RING
7 (DTS) LORD OF THE RING
8 MANO PO
9 DEKADA '70

Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0082
1 BANGKERO
2 (SDDS) LORD OF THE RING
3 (DTS) LORD OF THE RING
4 (DOLBY) HALF PAST DEAD
5 KERIDA

Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.6795
1 BANGKERO
2 HALF PAST DEAD
3 (DTS) LORD OF THE RING
4 KERIDA
5 (SDDS) LORD OF THE RING

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470
1 LORD OF THE RING

Sampaquita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888
1 LORD OF THE RING

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724
Dilson KERIDA
Lords BANGKERO
Jennet RESERVE

Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 HALF PAST DEAD
2 LORD OF THE RING
3 BANGKERO
4 LASTIKMAN

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238
1 (DOLBY) LORD OF THE RING
2 BANGKERO
3 LASTIKMAN
4 HALF PAST DEAD
5 KERIDA

FRC Cinema
(Talaba Bacoor Cavite)
1 DEKADA '70
2

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 KERIDA
2 HULA MO HULI KO

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT Araneta ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7
tel 911.3101 loc. 821.8242.8400
1 LASTIKMAN
2 KERIDA
3 (DOLBY DIGITAL) HALF PAST DEAD
4 (SDDS) LORD OF THE RINGS 2
5 (DTS) LORD OF THE RINGS 2
6 HEAVEN
7 MANO PO

FarmersPlaza CINEMAS
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1 HALF PAST DEAD
2 LORD OF THE RINGS 2

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Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
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1 KERIDA
2 HALF PAST DEAD
3 (SDDS) LORD OF THE RING

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 LASTIKMAN
2 (DTS) LORD OF THE RING
3 (DOLBY) LORD OF THE RING
4 HALF PAST DEAD

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146
1 MANO PO
2 (DOLBY) LORD OF THE RING
3 (DTS) HALF PAST DEAD
4 LASTIKMAN

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 LIKE MIKE
2 SPIRIT WARRIOR THE SHORT CUT
3 (DOLBY) LASTIKMAN
4 RESERVE

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729
1 LASTIMAN
2 KERIDA
3 (DOLBY) LONG TIME DEAD
4 (DTS) SWIM FAN

Magic Star Cinema
(Tarlac City) tel (045) 611.4305
1 (DOLBY) LONG TIME DEAD
2 (DTS) LASTIKMAN
3 KERIDA

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(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) RESERVE
2 BANGKERO
3 (DTS) KERIDA
4 HALF PAST DEAD

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) LORD OF THE RING
2 HALF PAST DEAD
3 (DTS) LASTIKMAN
4 SPIRIT WARRIOR THE SHORT CUT
5 MALDITA

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Binan) tel (049) 511.8883
1 LORD OF THE RING
2 LASTIKMAN
3 KERIDA

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249.2558
1 LORD OF THE RING
2 HALF PAST DEAD
3 LASTIKMAN

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283
1 BROTHER HOOD OF THE WOLF
2 LAPU LAPU
3 (DTS) MY BIG FAT GREEK WEDDING
4 (DOLBY) LASTIKMAN

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808
1 (DTS) RESERVE
2 (DTS) RESERVE

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(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657
1 SPIRIT WARRIOR THE SHORT CUT
2 LASTIKMAN
3 MASARAP NA PUGAD

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 LASTIKMAN
2 SPIRIT WARRIOR THE SHORT CUT
3 MY BIG FAT GREEK WEDDING
4 LONG TIME DEAD

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(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 (DOLBY EX) LORD OF THE RING
2 LASTIKMAN
3 (DTS ES) THE RING
4 HALF PAST DEAD

Cine Nepo Mall
(Angeles City) tel (045) 322-3571
1 LASTIKMAN
2 LORD OF THE RING
3 (DOLBY) HALF PAST DEAD
4 LORD OF THE RING

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3 LOTR : THE TWO TOWERS
4 DEKADA '70
5 LOTR : THE TWO TOWERS
6 LASTIKMAN
7 MANO PO
8 HALF PAST DEAD

SM CENTERPOINT
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1 LOTR : THE TWO TOWERS
2 KERIDA
3 LOTR : THE TWO TOWERS
4 BANGKERO
5 LOTR : THE TWO TOWERS
6 SPIRIT WARRIORS 2
7 HALF PAST DEAD
8 HEAVEN
9 MANO PO
10 LASTIKMAN

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749
1 HEAVEN
2 DEKADA '70
3 LOTR : THE TWO TOWERS
4 LOTR : THE TWO TOWERS
5 MANO PO
6 LASTIKMAN
7 LOTR : THE TWO TOWERS
8 SPIRIT WARRIORS 2
9 HALF PAST DEAD
10 KERIDA
11 BANGKERO
12 LOTR : THE TWO TOWERS

SM CITY MANILA
5239240
1 LOTR : THE TWO TOWERS
2 HALF PAST DEAD
3 SPIRIT WARRIORS 2
4 LOTR : THE TWO TOWERS
5 HEAVEN
6 LOTR : THE TWO TOWERS
7 BANGKERO
8 LASTIKMAN
9 RING (JAPANESE)
10 DEKADA '70
11 MANO PO
12 KERIDA

SM MEGAMALL
6331601 • 6329401
1 LOTR : THE TWO TOWERS
2 HALF PAST DEAD
3 LOTR : THE TWO TOWERS
4 LOTR : THE TWO TOWERS
5 SPIRIT WARRIORS 2
6 KERIDA
7 MANO PO
8 HEAVEN
9 LASTIKMAN
10 LOTR : THE TWO TOWERS
11 RING (JAPANESE)
12 BANGKERO

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452
1 LASTIKMAN
2 LOTR : THE TWO TOWERS
3 MANO PO
4 RING
5 HEAVEN
6 HALF PAST DEAD
7 LOTR : THE TWO TOWERS
8 LOTR : THE TWO TOWERS

SM SOUTHMALL
8086888
1 HEAVEN
2 HALF PAST DEAD
3 LOTR : THE TWO TOWERS
4 LASTIKMAN
5 KERIDA
6 LOTR : THE TWO TOWERS
7 SPIRIT WARRIORS 2
8 LOTR : THE TWO TOWERS
9 MANO PO
10 BANGKERO

SM CITY CEBU
2313878
1 HALF PAST DEAD
2 THE RING (HOLLYWOOD)
3 REPLIKATE
4 LIKE MIKE
5 LASTIKMAN
6 UNFAIHTFUL CONCUBINE
7 MANO PO
8 HALF PAST DEAD

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422
1 VAMPS
2 CLOSED
3 SWIMFAN
4 MANO PO
5 BROTHERHOOD OF THE WOLF
6 THE RING (HOLLYWOOD)
7 CLOSED
8 LASTIKMAN

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015
1 LOTR : THE TWO TOWERS
2 LOTR : THE TWO TOWERS
3 MY BIG FAT GREEK WEDDING
4 THE RING (HOLLYWOOD)
5 HALF PAST DEAD
6 LASTIKMAN

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975
1 LASTIKMAN
2 LOTR : THE TWO TOWERS
3 LOTR : THE TWO TOWERS
4 HALF PAST DEAD

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302
1 LOTR : THE TWO TOWERS
2 BANGKERO
3 HALF PAST DEAD
4 LASTIKMAN

SM CITY DAVAO
2976998
1 LOTR : THE TWO TOWERS
2 SWIMFAN
3 MANO PO
4 CHARLOTTE GRAY
5 THE RING (HOLLYWOOD)
6 LOTR : THE TWO TOWERS

SM BICUTAN
776-3055
1 LOTR : THE TWO TOWERS
2 HALF PAST DEAD
3 LASTIKMAN
4 LOTR : THE TWO TOWERS

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
859-2884
1 THE RING
2 LIKE MIKE
3 REPLI-KATE
4 SPIRIT WARRIORS 2

THE PODIUM CINEMA
18 ADB Avenue Ortigas Center Mandaluyong City
633-09

1 LORD OF THE RINGS: The Two Towers
11:30 FS/12:00 MF/3:40/7:20/
10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/2:10 END

2 LORD OF THE RINGS: The Two Towers
10:50 FS/11:20 MF/3:00/6:40/
9:50 LFS/10:20 LMF/1:30 END

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3 HEAVEN
4 LORD OF THE RINGS II
5 THE RING US VERSION
6 LORD OF THE RINGS II
7 RING JAPANESE VERSION
8 HALF PAST DEAD
9 DEKADA '70
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3 HEAVEN
4 RING (JAPANESE VERSION)
5 HALF PAST DEAD
6 LORD OF THE RINGS II
7 LORD OF THE RINGS II

Metro East - Marcos hway
682- 8193 / 8280
1 HEAVEN
2 LORD OF THE RINGS II
3 LORD OF THE RINGS II
4 THE RING US VERSION
5 HALF PAST DEAD
6 LORD OF THE RINGS II
7 LORD OF THE RINGS II
8 LASTIKMAN

Novaliches
935- 3229 - 30
1 LORD OF THE RINGS II
2 LORD OF THE RINGS II
3 LASTIKMAN
4 HEAVEN
5 HALF PAST DEAD
6 MANO PO
7 THE RING US VERSION
8 SPIRIT WARRIORS

Malabon Citisquare
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1 LORD OF THE RINGS II
2 LORD OF THE RINGS II
3 HALF PAST DEAD
4 LASTIKMAN

Star Mills- Sn. Fernando, Pamp
875- 1927
961- 5318 / 5270
1 HALF PAST DEAD
2 MY BIG FAT GREEK WEDDING
3 THE RING US VERSION
4 LASTIKMAN
5 LORD OF THE RINGS II
6 LORD OF THE RINGS II

Imus
471- 8188 / 875- 3838
1 LORD OF THE RINGS II
2 LASTIKMAN
3 LORD OF THE RINGS II
4 HALF PAST DEAD
5 BANGKERO
6 THE RING US VERSION

Sta. Rosa Laguna
1 HALF PAST DEAD
2 LORD OF THE RINGS II
3 THE RING US VERSION
4 MANO PO
5 LASTIKMAN

Bacolod
441- 0453 / 0459
1 THE RING US VERSION
2 REPLI-KATE
3 MANO PO
4 MY BIG FAT GREEK WEDDING
5 HULA MO HULI KO
6 DOUBLE SEDUCTION

Iloilo
336- 8077 - 78
1 THE RING US VERSION
2 SWIMFAN
3 VAMPS
4 LASTIKMAN
5 BROTHERHOOD OF WOLF
6 MANO PO

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

Rediscovering Baguio's mystical charm

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

IT'S BEEN over a year since I last went up to Baguio, that's why I didn't pass up the opportunity to spend the weekend in the City of Pines when my "friend for all seasons" **Emma San Juan** (of Elite Franchising Consultancy) invited me to grace the opening of another branch of my kind of coffee shop "Coffee Overdose." It's a quaint cozy place at the topmost floor of a new building right smack in the center of bustling Session Road. Thanks to my newfound friends **Doc Jun Carreon** (the bright boy behind Coffee Overdose), his muy graciosa girl Friday **Helen Sampang** and **Crispina Matib** (Baguio franchisee) for the warmth of their reception matched by deliciously hot cafe concoctions (though they also serve cold frappes and mouth-watering dishes).

Unlike most coffee shops (that are franchises from foreign companies), C.O. can truly boast of making use of original Pinoy blends. And since they are not at the mercy of foreign controlled firms, their prices are more budget-friendly.

C.O. will soon open other branches in Makati and Quezon City.

After the C.O. opening, my daughter **Bianchi**, Emma and I enjoyed strolling down Session Road. So much has changed in Baguio since my last trip. But amid all the modern developments, Baguio's mystical charm is still very much intact.

The pine trees, strawberries, flowers, wood carvings, walis, knitted sweaters, Igorot dolls, peanut brittle, silver jewelry, handwoven blankets and everything that is Baguio brought back so many childhood memories. For my daughter, it will soon be all part of her memory bank, too.

Who doesn't have a Baguio souvenir tucked somewhere in his cabinet and a picture at Mines View and Burnham Park?

Baguio has always served as some sort of hideaway for any true-blooded Pinoy. It represents a "world" where we can always run to when things get too heated (in every sense of the word) in our harried lives.

No wonder most celebrities trek up to the Pine City. when they just want to have a whiff of serenity.

Loveless Keempee

I HAD the time of my life at the birthday party of my longtime friend **Keempee de Leon** at my Quezon City refuge, Café Kilimanjaro in Timog.

It was a reunion of sorts with our "Saturday Club buddies." We used to hang out every Saturday three years ago with **Beth Tamayo, Lloyd Umali** and our beloved "godmother" **Tita Bebot.**

Missing from the group that night were **Bojo Molina** and **Smokey Manaloto.**

Lloyd performs on Wednesday nights at Kilimanjaro with his hip band Velvet Rose. The guitarist happens to be the grandson of saxophone wiz **Eddie Katindig** and the vocalist is the nephew of multi-awarded songwriter **Junjee Marcelo.**

Not too many people know that Lloyd is related to the legendary **Levi Celerio.** So you can just imagine how awesome they sound together. It's in the genes.

Keempee was dateless that night. So I told him, "All alone on your birthday?"

He smiled because we know each other too well. No need for words when you're that close.

The birthday boy grinned, "Ms. Emociones (as he fondly calls me), we're the same. When we fall, we fall hard. I'm enjoying my freedom for now."

HILA

Piano recital

HIYAS Alejo Hila will give a solo piano recital on Jan. 17 at the Francisco Santiago Hall, Equitable PCI Bank Tower 1, 7:30 p.m.

The program will include Beethoven's Sonata in El-Flat Major, Op. 81a ("Les Adieux"), selections from Lizst's Annees de Pelerinage, Book I (Suisse); "Au lac de Wallenstadt" and Au bord d'une source," Chopin's Barcarolle, Op. 60; and Prokofiev's Sonata No. 6, Op. 82 in A Major.

Call 818-1403, 840-7000 local 2258 and 2630.

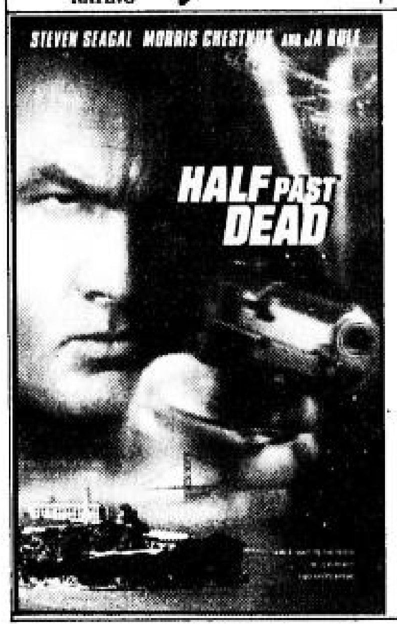
'Legal …

From page A20

Mussolino."

On Cinemax: Thursday, Jan. 16 at 6 a.m., "Cinema Secrets: When I Rome." Friday, Jan. 17 at 11 a.m., "Luv." 12:45 p.m., "Regarding Henry." 4 a.m., "Cinema Secrets: Road Rage."

Saturday, Jan. 18 at 2 p.m., "When Worlds Collide." 5 p.m., "Cinema Secrets: Creature Comfort." 7:15 p.m., "Final Destination." 10:30 p.m., "The Day the World Ended." Sunday, Jan. 19 at 5:20 p.m., "Pale Rider." 9 p.m., "Blow." 1:50 a.m., "Sleepy Hollow."


STEVEN SEAGAL MORRIS CHESTNUT AND JA RULE
HALF PAST DEAD

MTRCB RATING PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

Special New Year Presentation!

Steven Seagal back in Action

International action superstar Steven Seagal is back with a vengeance. This time he plays undercover FBI agent Sascha Petrosevitch in the brand-new non-stop, slam-bang action blockbuster from Columbia Pictures, "Half Past Dead."

The California Penal Authority has reopened Alcatraz, the most notorious prison in history. A disgruntled prison bureaucrat-turned-criminal mastermind heads a renegade commando team to infiltrate the high-tech fortress in order to force a death-row inmate to reveal the whereabouts of $200 million worth of gold.

Seagal teams with rap artist Ja Rule to rally the Alcatraz inmates to stop the invaders – before they murder the Supreme Court Justice, who is in The Rock to witness an execution.

The fast-paced, action-packed thriller also stars sexy Filipino Hollywood actress Nia Peeples as a deadly gun-firing, knife-throwing martial artist.

NOW SHOWING

GET A CHANCE TO WIN A TRIP TO NEW ZEALAND AT AYALA CINEMAS
GLORIETTA 1, GLORIETTA 4, GREENBELT 1, GREENBELT 3 AND ALABANG TOWN CENTER

THE LORD OF THE RINGS
THE TWO TOWERS
EXPLORE THE WORLD OF MIDDLE EARTH
A JOURNEY TO NEW ZEALAND

PROMO MECHANICS :
1. For every purchase of two (2) Lord of the Rings 2 – The Two Towers movie tickets at any Ayala Cinemas – Glorietta 1, Glorietta 4, Greenbelt 1, Greenbelt 3 and Alabang Town Center entitles customer to one (1) Lord of the Rings 2 raffle coupon.
2. Customer to fill up Lord of the Rings 2 raffle coupon with their name, age, home address, office address, handyphone number and email address and affix signature. Customer to drop the attached coupon in the designated drop boxes located at the Ayala Cinemas ticket booths.
3. Deadline for submission of entries is on February 9, 2003 10pm. Raffle draw will be on February 22, 2003 3pm at Glorietta 4 Cinemas Lobby, Makati City in the presence of a DTI representative.
4. Prizes include the following:
Raffle Prizes
4.1 Trip for 2 to New Zealand via Qantas Airways — 1 Winner
4.2 Gift Certificates worth P1,000.00 from Ayala Malls merchants — 2 Winners
4.3 Dinner for 2 in TGIFridays — 2 Winners
4.4 Movie tickets for 2 in Ayala Cinemas — 25 Winners
(5 winners per Ayala Cinema – Glorietta 1, Glorietta 4, Greenbelt 1, Greenbelt 3 and Alabang)
5. Prizes are transferable but not convertible to cash.
6. Customer can win only once. If a customer is drawn more than once, he/ she will get the bigger prize.
7. Winners will be notified through registered mail and telephone call.
8. Prizes can be claimed at the Ayala Land, Inc./ Ayala Cinemas office located at the 5th Floor, Glorietta 4 Building, Ayala Center, Makati City. Please look for Ms. Bunny Lazatin every Monday to Friday from 8:00am – 11:00am and 2:00pm – 4:00pm.
9. To claim prizes, present the notification letter sent by the Ayala Cinemas, claim stub and 2 valid I.D.'s (SSS, Voter's ID, PRC, Driver's License, Passport) with recent picture.
10. Customer may claim their prize until 60 days from receipt of notification letter. Prizes not claimed within the 60 day from receipt of notification letter will be forfeited in favor of Ayala Cinemas with prior approval from DTI-NCR.
11. Securing travel documents and other travel related expenses should be shouldered by the winner. The 20% prize tax will be shouldered by the sponsor.
12. Employees of Ayala Land Inc. and Ayala Cinemas and its promotion agencies including relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the promotion.
13. Promo runs from January 11 to February 9, 2003.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0102. Series of 2003.

NOW SHOWING AT ALL AYALA CINEMAS
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AYALA CENTER ALABANG TOWN CENTER AYALA CENTER

AYALA CINEMAS
OPENS JAN. 22 only at
ArtFilm GREENBELT 1

Off Key, aka Desafinado, is a Spanish comedy made in English featuring an international cast.

It is the story of three operatic tenors who performed all over the world together, until a disastrous performance in Mexico City, where they split for good. Now, they are getting together at the French Villa for the wedding of one of the three tenors to the daughter of another. To further complicate things, the bride's mother is married to the third trio member now. The father of the bride, who has fallen on hard times, hires a hooker to accompany him, and to help with his plot to reunite the trio as performers. The groom-to-be has a son, who isn't really his, and who secretly has the hots for the bride's mother.

Starring:
Danny Aiello, George Hamilton, Joe Mantegna
Anna Galiena & Ariadna Gil

MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13
SKYFILMS NOKIA INQUIRER

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PRESENTS
Jose Mari Chan
The Heart of a Songwriter
January 17 & 18, 2003, 9PM
ONSTAGE THEATER, GREENBELT 1

Tickets at P1,200 / P1,000 / P600
& available at National Book Store branches, Robinson's (Malate & Galleria), Tower Records (Makati & Alabang), Music Museum (Greenhills), Ayala Center Greenbelt 1 Ticket Booth, Glorietta 1 Ticket Booth or call 891-5610 / 635-0473 / 631-6944

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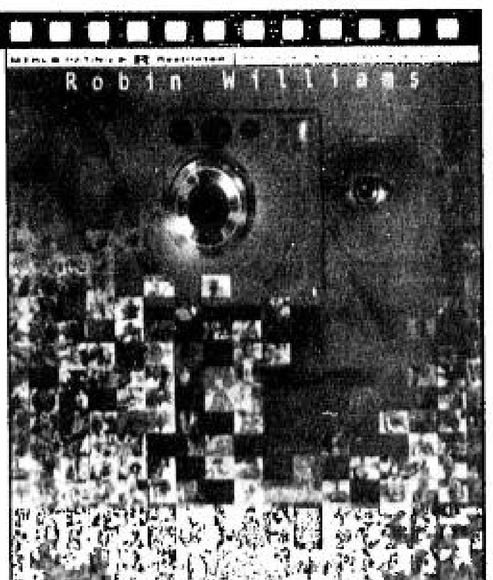
SUSMARYOSEP... THE ORIGINAL IS BACK!
DUE TO INSISTENT DEMAND BY THE HORRIFIED PUBLIC... THE ORIGINAL JAPANESE FILM THAT STARTED THE "FEAR FEVER" IN METRO MANILA IS NOW ON ITS RETURN ENGAGEMENT AT SM MEGAMALL SM MANILA SM NORT GLORIETTA-4 GREENBELT ROBINSON GALLERIA ROBINSON ERMITA

MTRCB RATING PG-13
Experience Fear Worse Than Nightmare!!!
Ring
Circle of Evil
"There's a video. If you see it you have to show it to someone else. After seven days... you die!

MTRCB RATING PG-13 PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED OPEN JAN 22, WED!

Elijah Wood Mandy Moore Franka Potente
Try Seventeen
PENSHOPPE
SOLAR
SOLAR SPORTS
A SOLAR FILMS RELEASE

SEE IT FIRST!
SM CINEMA
ADVANCE SCREENING
INVITATIONAL DWRT PREMIERE
on January 16, 2003 • 7:30 pm
SM MEGAMALL CINEMA 1
MTRCB RATING: R18
Regular Showing on January 22, 2003 at the SM CINEMAS



SEE IT FIRST!
SM CINEMA
ADVANCE SCREENING
INVITATIONAL 103.5 K-LITE PREMIERE
on January 16, 2003 • 7:30 pm
SM MEGAMALL CINEMA 6
Regular Showing on January 22, 2003 at the SM CINEMAS

MTRCB RATING PG-13
Surviving the mob is hard. Surviving each other is harder.
Robert De Niro
Billy Crystal
analyze that

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

'Morning Girls' airs final episode; new show with Tessie and Kris to replace it

By Leah Salterio

ABS-CBN's daily morning show, "Morning Girls," will air its final episode at 11 a.m. today.

It's not true that the show has not been rating. The contract of its hosts simply expired, so the network no longer renewed it.

Besides, the hosts of "Morning Girls" maintain very demanding schedules. Hence, they are even relieved now that the show is folding up.

When "Morning Girls" debuted on TV last July, the show originally had Kris Aquino hosting with Pops Fernandez and Zsa Zsa Padilla. However, since Kris had another daily show on ABS-CBN, "Game Ka Na Ba," she had to give up the daily morning show after only a few weeks. Carmina Villaroel replaced her.

Pops recently announced she also had to quit the morning program, so she can carry out an extensive performance tour in and out of the country.

Zsa Zsa, for her part, maintained she also has to do a lot of things this year. Without a daily morning show to worry about, she can have a less-demanding schedule and can give way to other things.

To replace "Morning Girls" is a new lifestyle show to be hosted by Tessie Tomas and Kris Aquino. It will be remembered that not so long ago, the two lorded it over that particular morning time slot with their respective shows. Tessie hosted "Teysi ng Tahanan" for nearly seven years, while Kris maintained her top-rating program, "Today With Kris" for more than five years.

Kris later moved up to the late afternoon timeslot with the current affairs program, "Balitang Kris." Her morning show was replaced by "Talk TV," hosted by with Tintin Bersola, Ryan Agoncillo and Julius Babao.

TV TRIO NO MORE. The original hosts of "Morning Girls" (from left) Pops Fernandez, Kris Aquino and Zsa Zsa Padilla.

'Legal illuminaries' and other boob-tube booboos

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

HOST: On the Presidential race for 2004, do you think that former president Fidel Ramos will be permitted to run again?

Guest: That depends on the decision of the Supreme Court, as advised by the country's top legal illuminaries.

(*Ay*, illuminaries!)

***

Host: What is your opinion, is playing the lotto a form of gambling?

Guest: No, playing lotto is not gambling because its' always in our mind!

(Huh?)

***

Host: There's so much talk about singing divas these days, its confusing. Can you give us your definition of a diva?

Guest: A diva is an engine singer!

(Toot-toot!)

***

Newscaster: The headline news tonight is about a big fire in Cubao that has been raging since this afternoon. Our news team's camera is there at the scene to show you the latest. What you see on the screen now is live footage of the ongoing fire!

(If it's live, then it isn't "footage," which refers only to tape or film, not live shots.)

***

Host: *O*, speak up! You're too shy *naman. Bakit ka ba* shy *ha*?

Contestant: *Nahihiya ako kasi* exposure *ko ito, e.*

(*Ano daw?*)

***

Host: May family *ka ba dito* to cheer you on?

Contestant: *Meron po.*

Host: Where are they? Why don't you introduce them? *Sino ba sa* family *mo ang nandito*?

Contestant: *Mga* relatives *ko po.*

(*E di kasi naman!*)

***

Host: Do you know anything more about the identity of the divers who are missing from the resort?

Guest: All I know is that they were foreign foreigners.

(*Isa ka pa.*)

***

Host: So, your restaurant encourage *kamayan* eating? How do your customers react to it?

Guest: They love it because it's like the food becomes more delicious. There's just one drawback, though.

Host: What's that?

Guest: You first have to watch your hands.

(*Ay*, watch!)

***

Host: What is the complaint of your client?

Guest: He was not paid his salary, even though he rended already the full service!

(*Ay*, rended!)

***

Host: *O, papano na*-resolve *ang* car accident *diyan*?

Field reporter: *Dinala na sa ospital ang dalawang patay na kotse!*

(*Patay!*)

'Brotherhood of the Wolf'

AT 11:30 a.m., on Thursday, Jan. 16, Star Movies screens "Brotherhood of the Wolf," a film inspired by events that took place in 1765, during the reign of France's King Louis XV. A mysterious creature is laying waste to the countryside, killing scores of women and children. The king sends in a renowned scientist and his Iroquois blood brother, an unconventional team whose combined methods and capabilities may finally bring the beast down.

French animation at CCP

STUDENTS and film practitioners and enthusiasts have one more chance to sample the best in French animation in 35 mm. Format, ongoing until Jan. 18 at the CCP's Tanghalang Manuel Conde.

The films on view demonstrate a variety of innovative techniques, from line-drawn to computer-generated images, mixed media, clay modeling, puppets, even scratching on film. Highlights are two long features by Michel Ocelot. Call CCP film at 832-5120.

'Midnight Run'

AT 5 p.m. on Jan. 18, Star Movies presents "Midnight Run," an action comedy starring Robert De Niro and Charles Grodin. De Niro plays an ex-cop who is offered $100, 000 to bring an accountant who embezzled from the Mob (Grodin) to justice. What De Niro thinks is an easy assignment turns out to be a comedy of errors and terrors as weird elements of the FBI and the Mob join the madcap chase.

Movies on TV

ON the HBO channel, Thursday, Jan. 16 at 9:30 a.m., "The Client." 3:30 p.m., "Into the Arms of Strangers: Stories of the Kindertransport." Friday, Jan. 17 at 8:15 a.m., "Snow Falling on Cedars." 10:30 a.m., "Fast Times at Ridgemont High.' 2 a.m., "Tea With

LEGAL/ A19

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"THE RING' RAISES SOME SERIOUS GOOSE BUMPS."
DAVID ANSEN, NEWSWEEK

Araneta Center

ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7	
Ali 1	LASTIKMAN
Ali 2	KERIDA
Ali 3	HALF PAST DEAD
Ali 4	LORD OF THE RINGS 2
Ali 5	LORD OF THE RINGS 2
Ali 6	HEAVEN
Ali 7	MANO PO
FARMERS PLAZA CINEMAS	
Farmers 1	HALF PAST DEAD
Farmers 2	LORD OF THE RINGS 2
ARANETA COLISEUM	
JAN 15	NCA 7 COCK DERBY
JAN 21, 22, & 24	WORLD SLASHER CUP 2003
FEB 15	ABBA TRIBUTE
ELEPHANT WORLD	
JAN. 15	3 PM
JAN. 16	10 AM / 3 PM
JAN. 17	10 AM / 3 PM / 5 PM

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	MASARAP NA PUGAD / SEX LOVE
ODEON	HALF PAST DEAD
ODEON-2	PAMASAK BUTAS / EVANGELINE 14
ROBEN	KERIDA
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	RAIN OF FIRE / THE TOUCH
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	LORD OF THE RINGS 2
QUEZON-1	KERIDA
REMAR	HALF PAST DEAD
REMAR-2	KERIDA
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	LORD OF THE RINGS 2
B	HULA MO, HULI KO
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	HALF PAST DEAD
CINEMA-2	LORD OF THE RINGS 2
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	BANGKERO
CINEMA-2	KERIDA
CINEMA-3	DIE ANOTHER DAY
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	LORD OF THE RINGS 2
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	DEKADA '70
CINEMA-6	SPIRIT WARRIORS 2
CINEMA-7	MANO PO
CINEMA-8	LASTIKMAN
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	LORD OF THE RINGS 2
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	LORD OF THE RINGS 2
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	HALF PAST DEAD
CINEMA-12	LORD OF THE RINGS 2
CINEMA-14	HEAVEN
CINEMA-15	RING
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
CINEMA 1	DIE ANOTHER DAY
CINEMA 2	BAHID
CINEMA 3	HARRY POTTER
CINEMA 4	CHANGING LANES
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

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HEAVEN R18 12:30, 2:45, 5:10, 7:25, 9:40	LORD OF THE RINGS "TWO TOWERS" GP 12:20, 4:00 SNEAK PREVIEW THE RING	LORD OF THE RINGS "TWO TOWERS" GP 11:30, 3:10, 6:50, 10:30

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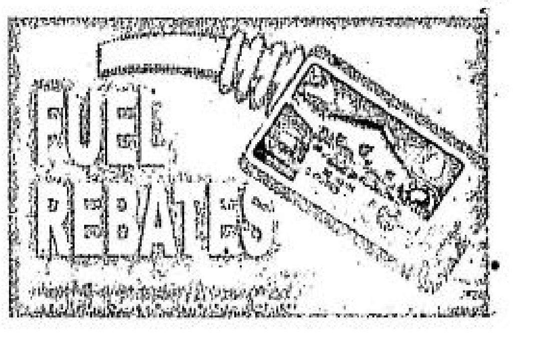

Gov't presses 10% VAT on professionals

By Clarissa S. Batino

IN A BID to counter mounting opposition to the 10-percent value-added tax to be imposed on actors, lawyers, doctors and the like, the Department of Finance yesterday said that salaried individuals have been carrying a tax burden that was eight times heavier compared to professionals and business executives who were earning more.

Documents from the finance department showed that in 2001, wage earners paid P61.66 billion in taxes while professionals and business executives remitted only P15.41 billion.

Based on 1997 data, salaried individuals earned only P582.7 billion while professionals and business executives took home P1.16 trillion.

Had professionals paid the 10-percent VAT in 2001, the government would have collected an additional P100 billion, substantially reducing the P136-billion deficit during that time.

Finance Assistant Secretary Gil Beltran explained that the latest available data on taxes paid were for 2001 and 1997 for the income earned by the two sectors. He said the estimated income should not have changed much.

In effect, Beltran said that salaried workers remitted 10.58 percent of their income to the government while professionals and business executives gave only 1.33 percent.

Professionals led by actors and members of the television and movie industry are organizing a demonstration on Monday at the Senate against the VAT.

"The burden of compensation earners is almost eight times more when they earn much less. Even on a per person basis, we believe salaried individuals pay more taxes on the average than a professional," said Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho.

He added that contrary to common belief, the 10-percent VAT was not a new tax.

Professionals and banks have been exempt from the VAT since the Comprehensive Tax Reform Act was passed in 1997. Camacho had been pushing to lift the exemption of professionals from the 10-percent VAT.

He said that the exemption of professionals had cost the government about P8.6 billion in taxes a year. Unlike professionals, banks have been paying a 5-percent gross receipts tax, which would be converted into a 10-percent VAT after the exemption of the two sectors lapsed in 2002.

A bill to extend the exemption of the two sectors has not been passed. The Bureau of Internal Revenue took this opportunity to issue a revenue regulation that

GOV'T/B2

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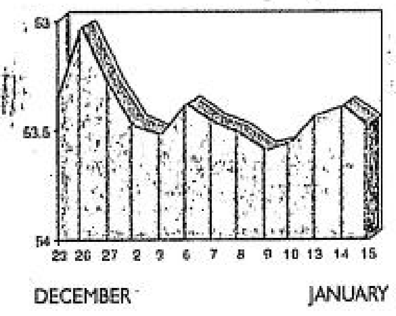

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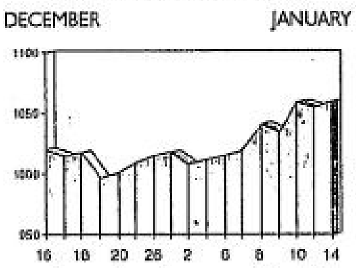


(See stock market report on Page B2)

STOCKS closed 1.33 percent higher yesterday on bargain hunting, with sentiment buoyed by an improved government budget position over the past two months, brokers said.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index added 14.14 points to 1,075.47, its highest finish since ending at 1,083.60 on Nov. 7 last year. Turnover rose to 372.7 million shares worth P531.9 million from Tuesday's 195.7 million shares worth P200.8 million.

"The market seems to have more appetite for stocks," said Jose Vistan of AB Capital Securities. "Technically there's momentum and at the same time some hope on the fundamentals, because of the improving fiscal situation for the past two months."

Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin on Tuesday said indications point to the 2002 budget deficit coming in lower than forecast, with tax revenues improving at the tail-end of the year. *AFP*

Lufthansa investing ₱1B more in RP venture

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

LUFTHANSA Technik Philippines Inc. (LTP) is pumping in an additional P1.115 billion at its Villamor Airbase facility in line with its plan to transfer its Airbus maintenance and overhaul operations from Germany to the Philippines.

The expansion plan is part of Lufthansa Technik AG's strategy to transfer part of heavy maintenance facilities for wide-bodied aircraft into Asia to take advantage of low labor rates in the region and boost market share not only in the region but worldwide. The company is one of the world's biggest independent providers of aircraft maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) services.

Lufthansa Technik took over the MRO business of Philippine Airlines in 2000 through a 51-49 joint venture with Lucio Tan's MacroAsia Corp. Tan is the controlling shareholder of PAL.

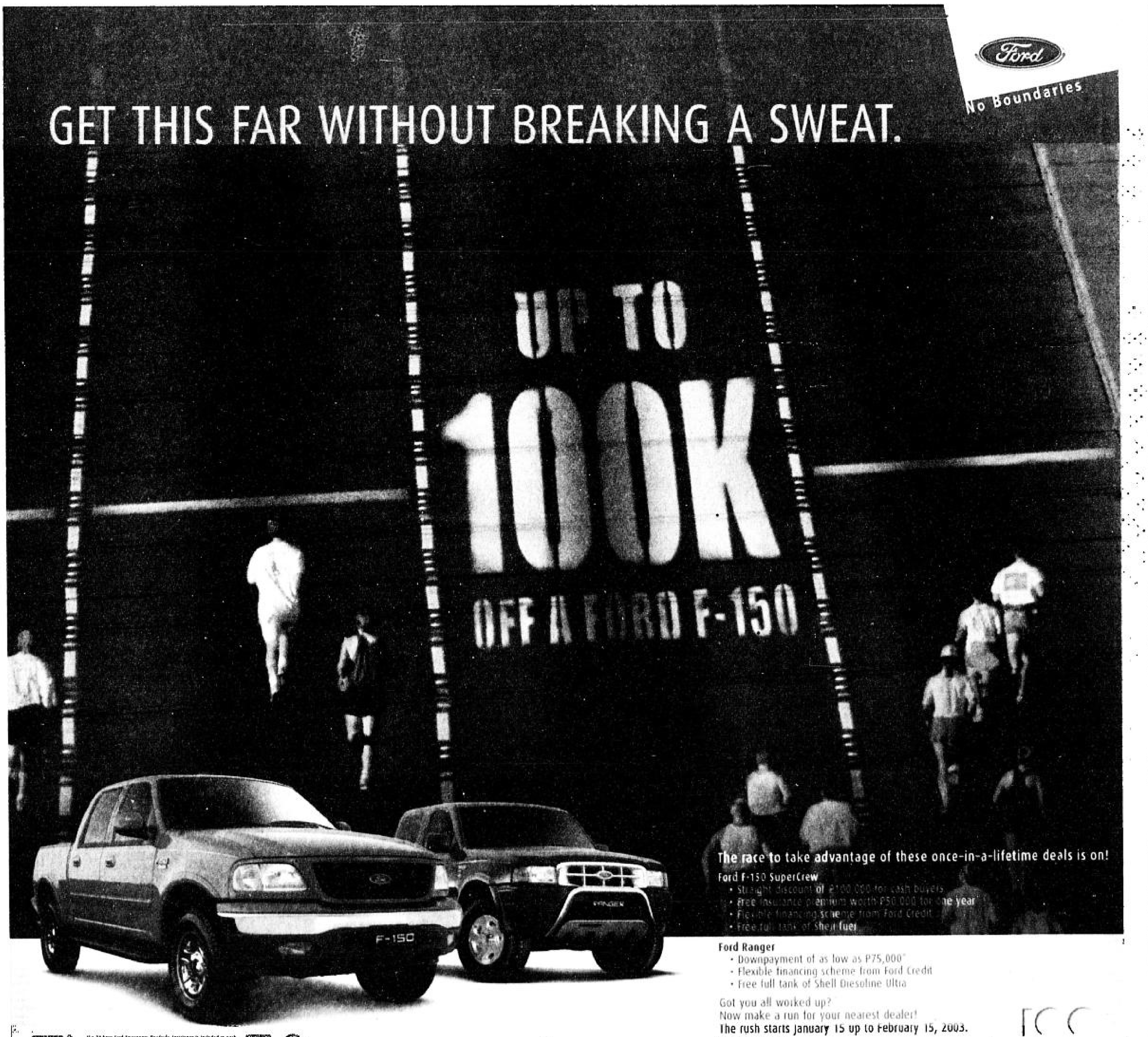
The project will construct two state-of-the-art-docking facilities in the MacroAsia Special Economic Zone at the Villamor Airbase to handle the overhaul of Airbus 330/340 of Philippine Airlines, Lufthansa and other airlines.

Lufthansa Technik said that 33 percent of the global Airbus A330/A340 fleet is operated by Asian airlines and the market for heavy maintenance and overhaul in Asia is expected to grow to 49 percent of worldwide demand by 2006.

Lufthansa Technik president and CEO Thomas Gockel said the company has sent more than 100 Filipino mechanics to Germany for extensive on-the-job training. The project is expected to create 415 new jobs (it currently has 1,800 workers) and generate average export sales of $16.56 million over the next five years.

The project's facility was declared an economic zone by the Philippine Economic Zone Authority, which has made it eligible for incentives normally granted to export-oriented enterprises.

Aside from the Philippines, Lufthansa Technik's Asian expansion includes an airframe-related component service facility in Shenzhen, China and the Ameco facility in Beijing, the largest maintenance hangar in Asia capable of accommodating four 747s simultaneously.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Killing me soufflé

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

ONCE in a while, I get a thrill from what I call, for want of a better term, "this cute administration."

The newest thrill is Executive Order No. 142, courtesy of the Department of Finance, which involves taxes and duties on imported vehicles.

The order says that anybody who owns an imported vehicle must get, .uhm, a "clearance" from both the BIR and Customs. Again, that's BOTH.

Uh-oh, watch out, because we know what those two money-making agencies are famous for, and it is not exactly *pancit luglog.* They are known for killing you softly.

* * *

"THERE have been reports," says EO 142 itself, "that an undetermined number of taxable imported vehicles have not been registered with the LTO."

It follows up with this qualification: Or those vehicles "which have been registered without the correct taxes, duties, and fees collectible thereon being paid."

Hmm. Just where exactly those "reports" came from, whether from Madam Auring or from Nostradamus, the Malacañang order forgot to say.

Ah, *basta,* there have been reports! In a democracy, "reports," wherever they come from, are enough for the government to respond with the full force of the law.

If you don't follow EO 142, and you fail to get the clearance from both BIR and Customs, the government can just take away your vehicle. And it's all even legal!

* * *

OBVIOUSLY, the order refers to the reported "flood" of imported used vehicles, coming into the country from Japan via Subic.

The reports came from some big mouths which actually belong to local car assemblers which are all foreign companies.

They lobbied hard with the Department of Trade and Industry to stop such imports, claiming that the secondhand Subic vehicles were killing them softly, too.

But I heard that the DOF prepared the new order. This is fine. The budget deficit is running away to Pluto. This cute administration needs a lot of money.

Surprisingly, though, it was not the DTI that pushed for the order. So don't go badmouthing DTI boss Mar Roxas again. But then again it's a free country.

* * *

ANYWAY, based on the order, without the clearance from the BIR and Customs, the LTO cannot even start to entertain the renewal—a mere renewal—of any imported vehicle.

Moreover, the order covers ALL imported vehicles in the past two years, meaning, from the start of 2000 up the end of 2002.

Just how the DOF determined the cutoff date as Jan. 1, 2000—and not, say, the Chinese New Year's Day in 1992—is hard to say.

But who knows if the DOF will stop at year 2000? It is already enforcing a law retroactive to two years. What will stop it from going further back in time?

* * *

AS I said, nobody can blame Finance Secretary Jose Isidro "the Whiz" Camacho, if he tries to squeeze every centavo from us. The government needs the money.

It's just that EO 142 instantly, directly, and automatically absolves the car companies of tax liability. I am not kidding. It says so in the order itself.

"This order shall cover taxable imported motor vehicles, EXCEPT those imported under the Car Development Program by car manufacturers and assemblers..."

Look at that—car "manufacturers!" Is there such a thing in this country? Last time I checked, they all sell imported cars, except tires, batteries and cell phone chargers.

* * *

IN other words, EO 142 is getting strict on the payment of taxes and duties on imported vehicles, if you happen to have acquired yours in the past two years.

But the rule only applies to the rest of us, and not to the car companies. The car companies can import vehicles and cheat the government all they want.

Yet if my, er, "photogenic" memory serves me right, the Whiz himself never held back words when it came to the tax practices of the alleged "manufacturers."

For instance, he hit the SUV of Honda called CRV, in which the company put all of 10 seats to avoid paying taxes.

Sure, the CRV can seat 10 people as long as they are as cute as Gloriaetta, Sen. Juan Flavier, plus Snow White and the seven dwarfs.

* * *

TOGETHER with the DTI, the DOF has been complaining that the car assemblers always found a way to cheat on taxes.

Not too long ago, for example, certain car companies were caught importing CBUs, which they were passing off as CKDs. In short, they were cheating, period.

CBUs are to cars what RTW is to clothes. They are already the finished goods. Thus the government imposes a higher tax of 30 percent on CBUs.

On the other hand, the CKDs are to cars what nylon and thread are to underwear. They are just parts for assembly. The tax is from 3 to 7 percent.

The government caught certain car companies cheating on taxes for CKD and CBU. Yet EO 142, in effect, says that only you and I are capable of cheating!

* * *

BECAUSE you always had it easy in your battle against red tape, EO 142 says that you must go to the LTO main office in Quezon City to register your imported vehicle.

There, the order says, this cute administration will set a one-stop shop for the renewal of your registration. One-stop shop is good, but you must go to Quezon City.

Now I have a friend whose brother in law bought an imported second-hand truck, brought it to Mindanao, and started a small business hauling copra.

The enterprising young man paid less than half a million pesos for the truck. A brand new one from a local car, ah, "manufacturer" cost more than just a fake soufflé.

It was almost P2 million, forgodsakes, which, if he bit the price, would really be like killing himself not just softly with a soufflé. It's outright murder.

* * *

NOW, finally, thanks to EO 142, the poor guy who started a small business on his own, because he could not find a job, must still spend a lot of money.

The order tells him to come to Quezon City for the renewal of the registration of his truck. Then he must get the clearance from both BIR and Customs.

For fare alone, he must spend from P5,000 to P10,000—depending on whether he takes the airplane or he just walks all the way from Mindanao.

And what about the "cost" of the BIR and Customs clearance? Don't think that is free!

That's the kind of protection which this cute administration gives the multinational car, er, "manufacturers.

It bends over backwards at the expense of that poor guy. Quite a thrill!

DEBT REFINANCING

DBP plans to borrow $250M

By Elena R. Torrijos

STATE-OWNED Development Bank of the Philippines is planning to borrow $250 million this year to refinance maturing obligations.

In a briefing with reporters yesterday, DBP president Simon Paterno said the bank was open to any borrowing structure—whether bond, loan or other debt instruments. It plans to refinance a $100-million loan from Citibank N.A. which will fall due in June and a $150-million yen-denominated note that will mature in September.

"We also have enough liquidity to pay these debts off with our own resources, this is plan B. This, however, will mean DBP will have less resources to lend out to projects that are not considered priority," Paterno said.

Paterno said he was hoping to finalize the borrowing for the Citibank loan by April and the financing for the yen-denominated debt within the second half of this year.

The borrowings should have a maturity of at least three years.

He noted that the two planned refinancing initiatives might be affected by the expected US-Iraq war but DBP would wait for financial markets to stabilize before pushing through with its borrowings.

The national government itself had to pay as much as 25 basis points more for its $500-million global bond issue this month because of concerns that the country's current account surpluses over the past several years have been overstated due to incorrect computations.

International rating agencies warned that they might downgrade their credit ratings on the Philippine government considering that the country's external accounts were worse than believed.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, which has spearheaded a review of the current account and balance of payment computations, said the 2000 current account position might have actually been a deficit instead of a surplus, as shown in earlier reports.

RCBC to raise tier 2 capital issue to $100M

RIZAL Commercial Banking Corp. will increase the size of its planned 10-year tier 2 capital issue to as much as $100 million or roughly P5.3 billion, from its original target of P3.6 billion.

"The central bank has lifted the ceiling (on tier 2 capital issues), so we will go for a higher amount," RCBC chief executive Cesar Virata said. "I suppose it will be similar to what the other banks are planning, maybe around $100 million."

Tier 2 capital is a subordinated long-term debt.

Earlier, the Monetary Board, the policy-making body of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, raised the cap on the level of tier 2 capital a bank can tap.

RCBC last year postponed indefinitely its tier 2 issue in view of the poor market reception to this type of borrowing.

"I think we won't be able to make money if the cost of capital is very high," Virata said earlier.

RCBC wanted to raise its capital to support its asset and revenue growth targets in a cost effective manner. *Elena R. Torrijos*

Viability of naphtha cracker project questioned

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE PHILIPPINE Plastic Industries Association yesterday said the proposed naphtha cracker was doomed to failure despite the government's decision to defer the reduction in duties on petrochemical products.

PPIA vice president Alex Teng said that the proposed 600,000 metric-ton-a-year plant in Bataan would flounder due to flaws in its design and location and in the supply and demand conditions that would prevent the project from attaining economies of scale.

The government had earlier agreed to cut tariffs on polymers from 15 percent to 10 percent instead of the scheduled 5 percent to give the midstream petrochemical industry players up to two years to build a cracker and complete the industry's integration.

Teng said the cracker's capacity alone was way below the minimum 1 million-ton-a-year level that would make the cracker a viable undertaking.

Teng said the Philippine refining industry produces only 900,000 metric tons a year of naphtha (a by-product of petroleum refining) or just half of the 1.8 million metric tons of feedstock required by a 600,000-ton cracker. Teng said it takes 3 kilos of naphtha to produce a kilo of monomer.

This has put the country at a disadvantage over oil producing countries that have adequate supply of both naphtha and natural gas, which is used as a cheap alternative to naphtha.

He noted that demand for monomers stood at only 400,000 metric tons a year or 33 percent below the cracker's full capacity. Only 70 percent of the products produced by the cracker would be purchased by local mid-stream industries specifically ethylene and propylene since no local manufacturer uses the cracker's other by-product such as toluene and benzene.

Also, Teng said that the cracker would only serve one petrochemical plant that was still in operation, JG Petrochemical Corp., and that it was even doubtful that this company would buy its monomers from the Bataan plant due to the high transport and handling costs involved in bringing these inputs to JG's plant in Batangas.

ePLDTi expects 50% increase in revenue

By Abigail L. Ho

PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. subsidiary ePLDTi expects to boost its parent firm's revenues this year with the projected P500 million in earnings of its Internet data center and the $12 million in expected contribution of its call centers.

In a news briefing yesterday, ePLDT vice president for sales and marketing Helen Marquez said that ePLDT's Vitro data center was able to increase its revenues by 237 percent from P98 million in 2001 to P330 million last year.

"One of our goals is to grow our revenues by 50 percent to hit P500 million," she said. "We also aim to expand our customer base and improve operational productivity."

On the call center side, Vocativ Systems Inc. and Parlance Systems Inc. are expected to rake in around $12 million in revenues for the PLDT subsidiary as more customers are seen to engage their services.

Parlance, a call center fully dedicated to a Denver-based customer, is seen to contribute around $7 million to $8 million this year, according to PLDT senior vice president for multi-channel call centers Rosalie Montenegro.

In another briefing, she said Parlance posted more than $3 million in gross revenues in 2002 and its American client was seen to outsource more of its requirements to its Philippine call center because of the quality of Filipino customer service representatives.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Wednesday, January 15, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4.7	4.7	4.5	4.5	7,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	18	18	17.75	18	89,900
Bank of the Phil. Islands	37	37	36	37	849,200
Citystate Savings Bank	14.75	14.75	14.75	14.75	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	27.5	28	27.5	28	129,000
First E-Bank Corp.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	40,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	31	31	30.5	31	165,300
Philippine National Bank	25	25	25	25	200
Security Bank Corp.	10.75	10.75	10.5	10.5	8,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	5,000
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	420,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	20,100,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1270	1270	1265	1265	1,060
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1040	1045	1040	1045	2,700
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.44	0.45	0.44	0.45	3,750,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	477.5	495	477.5	495	15,330
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.026	0.026	0.026	0.026	4,000,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	1,500,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3.55	3.55	3.55	3.55	1,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.21	0.215	0.21	0.215	470,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	325	337.5	325	330	351,400
Philweb Corp.	0.011	0.011	0.01	0.011	20,400,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	9.6	10	9.6	10	404,000
Manila Electric Co. B	12.75	13.75	12.75	13.75	6,401,200
Petron Corp.	1.62	1.62	1.6	1.6	2,761,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	6,263,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.94	0.94	0.94	0.94	140,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.64	1.76	1.64	1.76	2,275,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.44	2.44	2.44	2.44	578,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	70,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Union Cement Corp.	0.51	0.51	0.49	0.49	200,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Jollibee Foods Corp.	17	17.25	17	17.25	542,100
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	35.5	35.5	35.5	35.5	62,000
RFM Corp.	0.7	0.71	0.7	0.71	210,000
San Miguel Corp. A	58	58	58	58	87,600
San Miguel Corp. B	65	65	63.5	65	759,100
Universal Robina Corp.	3.1	3.15	3	3.1	86,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	4.55	4.55	4.5	4.5	7,262,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.34	2.34	2.34	2.34	400,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.165	0.175	0.165	0.17	7,830,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	100,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.145	0.15	0.145	0.15	6,340,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	10.25	10.75	10	10.5	1,074,000
Ionics Inc.	0.82	0.83	0.82	0.82	5,660,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.38	1.38	1.34	1.34	669,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.6	0.62	0.6	0.62	5,150,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.175	0.185	0.175	0.185	5,990,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.027	0.027	0.027	0.027	3,000,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
SPI Technologies Inc.	12	12.5	12	12.5	68,900
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.34	0.34	0.33	0.33	2,100,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	10,000
Manila Jockey Club	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	1,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	13.5	14	13.5	14	235,100
Cosmos Bottling Corp.-Pref	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	900
Jollibee Warrants	16.5	16.75	16.5	16.75	16,100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10	10	10	10	1,000
Philweb Corp. - Warrants	0.0006	0.0006	0.0006	0.0006	1,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5	5.1	5	5.1	13,593,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	10,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	200,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.12	0.125	0.12	0.12	2,830,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	3,300,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.08	1.08	1.06	1.06	9,273,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	1.94	1.94	1.94	1.94	100,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.025	0.026	0.025	0.025	3,500,000
SM Development Corp.	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	980,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.2	5.4	5.2	5.3	5,815,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	184,000,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	10,400,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.225	0.225	0.225	0.225	560,000
Omico Corp.	0.0022	0.0022	0.0022	0.0022	2,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	360,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	600,000
OIL					
Interport Res.	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	9,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	1,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	5,000,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc	21,819,360	52,843,225.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	98,235,730	363,578,355.00
PRO	39,601,000	112,017,330.00
Mining	197,920,000	3,291,600.00
OIL	15,000,000	27,000.00
GRAND TOTALS :	372,576,090	531,757,510.00

	AVERAGES	
Bank & Fin Svc	387.35	UP 2.93
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,530.31	UP 22.23
PRO	469.50	UP 11.50
Mining	1,292.40	DOWN 2.34
OIL	1.07	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	662.67	UP 5.42
Composite	1,075.47	UP 14.14

NO. OF ADVANCES: 31; NO. OF DECLINES: 15; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 31; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 77; NO. OF TRADES: 2,722

DISCLOSURES

BENGUET Corp. announced the reelection of Ferdinand Martin Romualdez as company chair. Other reelected officers were Benjamin Philip Romualdez, president and CEO; Hermogene Real, corporate secretary; Salvador Pabalan, SVP-finance and treasurer; Marcelo Bolano, SVP-mining and services, and Danilo Galang, SVP-water and land development.

* * *

PHILSTAR.com Inc. will hold its special stockholders' meeting on Feb. 24, 10 a.m. at the Manila Golf and Country Club, Makati City. Stockholders of record as of Jan. 27 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

ELECTED directors of **Balabac Resources and Holdings Co. Inc.** were Jaime Bautista, Raymundo Feliciano, Raymundo Feliciano Jr., Ma. Cecilia Pesayco, Ramon Recto, Antonio Sevilla, Anthony Te, William Tieng, Wilson Young, Victor Yu and Rolando del Castillo. Also, the board approved Yu's offer for his company, **Round Peak Realty and Development Corp.** to subscribe to 25 percent of Balabac's proposed increase in authorized capital stock to P5 billion. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

CURRENCIES

Jan. 15, 2003

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	0.947239	1.000000	53.402000
Japan	Yen	0.008023	0.008470	0.452300
United Kingdom	Pound	1.520602	1.605300	85.726200
Hongkong	Dollar	0.121460	0.128225	6.847500
Switzerland	Franc	0.683532	0.721605	38.535200
Canada	Dollar	0.614970	0.649224	34.669900
Singapore	Dollar	0.547284	0.577768	30.854000
Australia	Dollar	0.552037	0.582785	31.121900
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.512703	2.652661	141.657400
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.252597	0.266667	14.240600
Brunei	Dollar	0.545707	0.576103	30.765100
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000107	0.000113	0.006000
Thailand	Baht	0.022246	0.023485	1.254100
UAE	Dirham	0.257899	0.272264	14.539400
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.055700	56.376500
Argentina	Peso	0.289675	0.305810	16.330900
Brazil	Real	0.289941	0.306091	16.345900
Denmark	Kroner	0.134589	0.142086	7.587700
India	Rupee	0.019796	0.020899	1.116000
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.249307	0.263193	14.055000
Mexico	New Peso	0.090584	0.095630	5.106800
New Zealand	Dollar	0.509816	0.538213	28.741700
Norway	Kroner	0.136403	0.144001	7.689900
Pakistan	Rupee	0.016318	0.017227	0.920000
South Africa	Rand	0.107352	0.113331	6.052100
Korea	Won	0.000808	0.000853	0.045600
Sweden	Kroner	0.109140	0.115219	6.152900
Syria	Pound	0.018393	0.019417	1.036900
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.027552	0.029087	1.553300
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000574	0.000606	0.032400

Gov't presses 10% VAT . . .

From page B1

would start imposing the 10-percent VAT on professionals starting this month. A similar regulation to start collecting VAT from banks is being drawn up.

Beltran pointed out that unlike compensation-earners whose income taxes are withheld by their employers, professionals are left to declare their earnings, which could be arbitrary.

"The system allows them a certain flexibility, which is not the case for the salaried earners," Camacho said earlier.

The government, he said, had been treating professionals with kid gloves and it was time that these people contribute more to nation-building.

FIVE NEW EXPRESSWAYS

₱236-B road network seen easing Metro traffic

By Michelle V. Remo

A TRAFFIC-FREE Metro Manila is a dream all motorists have.

Working to make this dream come true, the Department of Public Works and Highways has come up with a study on developing the Metro Manila Urban Expressway Network (MMUEN) that, when realized, will give Metro Manila five new expressways that will hopefully solve one of the capital region's biggest headaches.

The public works department has tapped the services of the Japan International Cooperation Agency for technical support.

Five priority expressway projects are being targeted to be completed by 2020, says DPWH project director Godofredo Galano.

When completed, the targeted network of expressways will cost a total of P235.8 billion, with each project unit cost ranging from P47 million to P4.5 billion.

Priority expressways

One priority expressway project is the Metro Manila Skyway that will connect the South Luzon and North Luzon expressways.

It will start from Buendia Avenue, where the current Skyway ends, pass through President Quirino and Araneta avenues, and end along Bonifacio Road going toward the North Luzon Expressway.

Another is the C5 expressway from Commonwealth Avenue to Malabon, which will run parallel to Edsa. This expressway is particularly important, says Galano, because Edsa is already congested by traffic coming from the North Luzon Expressway.

The third expressway, which will start from the North Luzon Expressway, is another alternative to Edsa, this time leading to the western part of Metro Manila covering Roxas Boulevard and the Manila port area.

The fourth expressway will be an extension of the Manila-Cavite expressway going to Rosario, Cavite. Galano explains that this particular expressway aims to improve access to Cavite and Laguna for motorists coming from Metro Manila. Cavite, he notes, has a very high urbanization rate.

Part of this Manila-Cavite expressway is the C5 expressway that will connect Roxas Boulevard and the South Luzon Expressway.

The last priority expressway is the Naia expressway, which will be another expressway parallel to Edsa. It will connect Roxas Boulevard and the Skyway.

Partnership

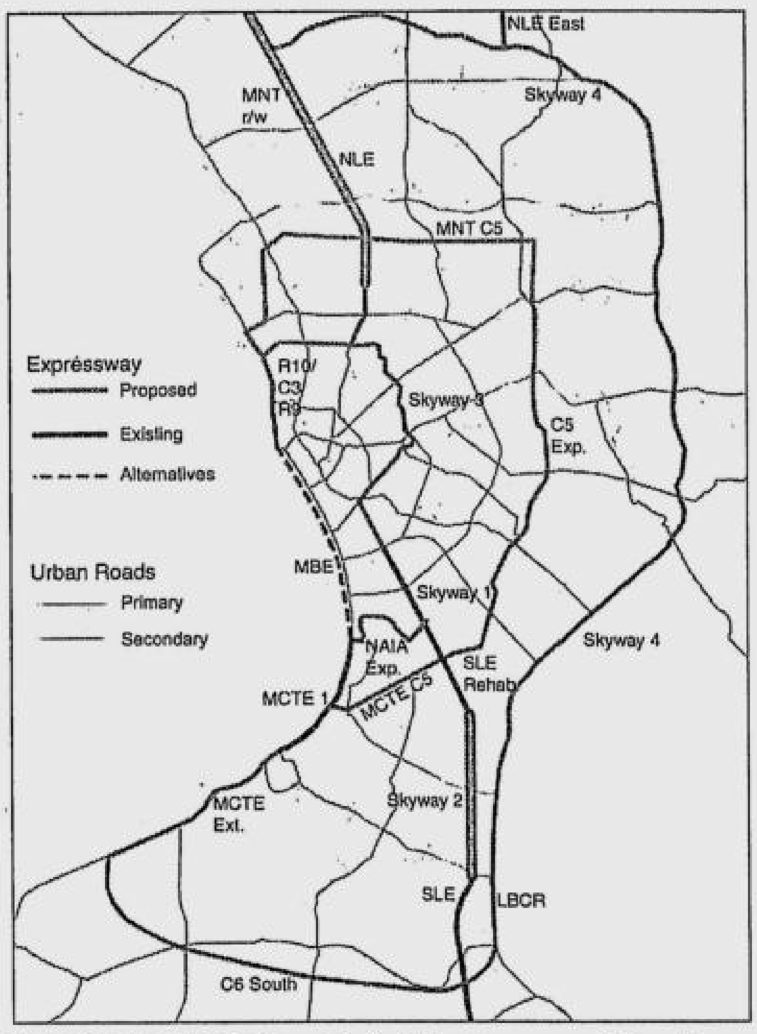
The study on the MMUEN proposes a partnership between the government and the private sector since the government lacks the money to do it alone.

To attract investors, the study proposes a 50-percent government subsidy for the expressways.

With a 50-percent government subsidy, the projected internal rate of return is expected to be at least 15 percent. Without the subsidy, the IRR is expected to reach only 8.9 percent that, according to the study, may hardly attract any investor.

Rene Santiago, a study team member, says the government should exert an extra effort to attract investors because doing so has been difficult after the Asian financial crisis.

A P4 common toll is recommended for all expressways.



THE P235.8-BILLION Metro Manila Urban Expressway Network.

The recommended toll, according to study team member Tetsuo Wakui, is based on different factors, such as the income of motorists, their willingness to pay and comparison with international rates.

Funding

The study proposes that the government get its share of the project's funding through official development assistance.

Galano says using ODA will be more beneficial to the government since it only has a 2-percent interest compared with a heftier rate coming from other sources.

Japanese ODA sources led by the Japan Bank for International Cooperation have expressed keen interest in bankrolling multibillion-peso expressway projects in the country, including those outside Metro Manila.

The JBIC has already agreed to finance the P18.739-billion 90-kilometer Subic-Clark-Tarlac expressway.

It is also attracted by the proposed extension of the South Luzon Expressway to Batangas and the expansion of the North Luzon Expressway to Tarlac.

The JBIC and other Japan ODA sources are particularly keen on the Skyway link between the South and North Luzon expressways.

The interest in road projects by Japanese soft-loan providers—loans could be had at one percent interest annually payable up to 40 years—shows that Japanese corporations are looking at the Philippines as a key relocation site for their domestic factories.

"The Japanese know that these key infrastructure projects will act as catalysts in spurring the growth of Luzon as a potent site for investments," Presidential Assistant for Regional Development in Northern Luzon Renato Diaz said.

Endogenous concession

Another way to attract investors, the study recommends, is for the government to adopt the endogenous concession period contract scheme.

Under this scheme, a concessionaire is given 25 years to achieve its target revenue, but that its concession may be terminated earlier than 25 years when it has already reached its target revenue.

When the concessionaire fails to achieve 80 percent of its target revenue after the 25-year period, it is given a five-year extension.

For better management of the expressways network, several proposals have been made out of the study. These include a common toll collection system for all concessionaires and one common organization for toll revenue collection and distribution, tool facility management and maintenance.

The study, says Santiago, also recommends that the government make sure it honors its contracts with concessionaires all throughout the duration of the concession agreement and that it should not back out with any contracts even if there will have been a change of administration.

NSO revises trade figures; current account shrinks

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE NATIONAL Statistics Office yesterday adjusted the country's trade data for 2000 and 2001, leading to a $3.1-billion and a $3.5-billion increase in imports during these years.

With the adjustment, the country's current account surplus in 2000 and 2001 will likely shrink, according to analysts.

The government admitted last week that it had been understating its import figures over the last two years, effectively overstating the country's current account surplus to give investors the impression that Philippine trade was healthy.

The admission came after an official of US financial adviser Moody's Investors Service revealed the problem.

Finance officials, however, were quick to downplay the significance of the "statistical glitch," but concerns that the government embellished the state of the domestic economy jacked up the government's borrowing costs.

The spread on the government's recent $500-million bond issue widened because of the issue.

Central bank officials said the adjustment would cut the current account surplus in 2000 and 2001 by about $4 billion.

The surplus of $8.46 billion in 2000 will be cut in half, while the $4.6-billion surplus in 2001 will fall to a balanced level, they said.

Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura said there was a chance the 2001 current account would yield a slight surplus.

The central bank is confident that the 2002 numbers will be "almost unchanged."

Based on data submitted by the NSO to the executive board of the National Statistical Coordination Board, imports in 2000 and 2001 will increase to $34.491 billion and $33.057 billion against $31.387 billion and $29.551 billion.

The trade balance has been similarly adjusted to $3.587 billion and a deficit of $907 million in 2000 and 2001 from $6.691 billion and $2.599 billion.

Economic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri said the adjusted trade data for 2002 would be completed by the end of the month.

He agreed with the central bank that no changes in the overall balance-of-payments position, as well as in the gross international reserves, were necessary.

"The overstatement of the trade balance has an offsetting effect on the capital account particularly on short-term capital outflows. This suggests that the outflow of short-term capital is, in fact, smaller than initially reported," he said.

The BOP, as of September, reflected a surplus of $751 million, while the current account registered a surplus of $3.929 billion.

A country's balance of payments is a record of all transactions it makes during a certain period of time. It compares the amount of economic activity between a country and all other countries.

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Napocor seeks 8% budget hike, says it needs ₱224.4B

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE NATIONAL Power Corp. is asking Congress for a 2003 budget that is 5 to 8 percent higher than last year's, as it assumes that it will not be able to sell its assets or convince the government to shoulder its debts this year.

Documents show that the state-run power firm will need between P219.1 billion and P224.4 billion for maintenance and operation, pay its debts, and cover other expenses.

Napocor spent around P207.3 billion last year.

The debt-laden firm has informed Congress that it needs more funds to operate and maintain its power generation assets, pursue electrification activities in far-flung areas and continue its watershed management program.

Napocor's proposed budget also covers the transfer of the power firm's debts, assets and contract to the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp.

Napocor said the budget excluded funding for the transmission system that the National Transmission Corp. would take care of.

Incoming Transco president Alan Ortiz said last week that one of his priorities was to see Transco operate as a fully independent entity by the end of January.

Napocor plans to add two generating units to its 364-megawatt Kalayaan hydro facility in Laguna.

It is also undertaking rehabilitation programs for the 234-MW Tiwi geothermal complex in Albay, 252-MW Makiling-Banahaw geothermal complex in Laguna and the 80-MW Agus 1 hydro plant in Lanao del Sur.

Earlier this month, the INQUIRER reported that Napocor estimated it suffered a net loss of P40 billion in 2002—four times the 2001 figure of P10 billion.

Worse, net losses are seen to further bloat to P84.5 billion at the end of 2003 due to expenses for the separation of employees, a regulator-ordered rate reduction and lower sales.

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World Bank pegs cost of clean air at ₱25B

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINES needs to shell out at least P25 billion over the next 10 years to maximize gains from reforms mandated under the Clean Air Act of 1999, according to the World Bank.

In its latest Environment Monitor, the bank said the enactment of the Clean Air Act after eight years of debate and discussion was only the first building block in the long-integrated approach to air quality management.

"The challenge now is its implementation. Thus far, actions have been slow and scattered, and have not met expectations," the bank said.

"Government agencies lack the capacity and the budget to implement the law and numerous regulations. Many strategic plans have been drafted but not implemented," it said.

The report said among the specific funding requirements of the law were:

- P8.6 billion for a motor vehicle inspection system.
- P3 billion for emission reduction through pollution abatement equipment.
- P2.5 billion for continuous emissions monitoring systems.
- P2 billion for the conversion to cleaner fuels.
- P1 billion for upgrading an ambient air quality monitoring network.
- P200 million for outsourcing stack emission testing.
- P150 million for intensive enforcement of industrial emissions.
- P40 million for enhancing an anti-smoke belching program.

"This is a huge amount by the benefits—reduced hospital admissions, reduced deaths and improved productivity—are likely to far exceed these costs," the World Bank said.

About P1.39 billion will already be financed by the comprehensive Metropolitan Manila Air Quality Improvement Sector Development Project.

Maynilad refuses to cover MWSS budget

By Christine A. Gaylican

MAYNILAD Water Services Inc. has refused to pay its share of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System's current operating budget.

The MWSS said under its concession agreement, Maynilad was supposed to pay some P141 million each year.

However, due to its intent to terminate its contract, Maynilad has not paid this obligation to the government-run MWSS.

"We have a pending termination. Whether we would assume paying our obligations with the MWSS is still being discussed by our lawyers," Maynilad chief finance officer Salvador Tirona told the INQUIRER yesterday.

MWSS Administrator Orlando Hondrade said Maynilad's refusal to pay prompted the MWSS to formally request Maynilad to hand the concession area back to the government pending arbitration proceedings on the case.

"The government could no longer pay for the obligations of Maynilad to creditors, especially for the concession fees," Hondrade said.

He said there should be a way to unburden the government of its debts, which is actually 90 percent of some $800 million.

Maynilad filed a notice to terminate its concession agreement with the MWSS on Dec. 9.

Maynilad has been unable to operate viably because of the peso's steep depreciation, causing its mostly dollar-denominated debts to soar.

Maynilad assumed 90 percent of the MWSS' debts.

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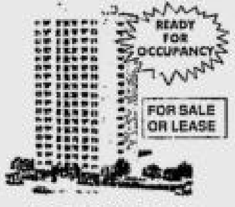

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
CENTRAL OFFICE
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

January 3, 2003

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY/ELIGIBILITY SCREENING AND TO BID

The Department of Health thru the Central Office Bids and Awards Committee (COBAC) is inviting bids from accredited contractors of the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) with minimum license category of "D" and "C" and registration of "Small B" for Building and Industrial Plant with Specialty on Electrical Works for the project Proposed DOH Warehouse Rewiring with Electrical Fixtures and Devices located at DOH Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila.

The dates to be followed are:

1.	Submission of Letter of Intent, PCAB License and Registration (Bring original copies of Contractor's License for authentication) and Issuance of Eligibility Documents		January 9 to 17, 2003
2.	Submission of duly accomplished eligibility documents		January 24, 2003
3.	Posting of Eligible Contractors		January 31, 2003
4.	Issuance of Bid/Tender Documents		February 4 to 5, 2003
5.	Pre-bid Conference	10:00 AM	February 18, 2003
6.	Submission of Bids (deadline)	10:00 AM	March 6, 2003
7.	Opening of Bids	10:00 AM	March 6, 2003

Activities Nos. 1 to 4 above shall be held at the Office of the COBAC Secretariat, Procurement and Logistics Service, Bldg. No. 26, while activities nos. 5 to 7 shall be held at the Office of the COBAC Chairperson, Ground Floor, Bldg. No. 3, DOH, San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila.

The complete set of Bid documents may be purchased by the interested eligible bidders upon payment of non-refundable fee of THREE THOUSAND PESOS ONLY (P3,000.00).

COBAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any required formality and award the contract to any bidder whose proposal as evaluated by COBAC is the most advantageous to the Government. COBAC assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bids, nor does in guarantee that an award will be made.

The Approved Budget Cost will be announced during the pre-bid conference.

(Sgd.) ZENAIDA O. LUDOVICE, MD, MPH, CESO II
Assistant Secretary and Chairperson, COBAC

(PDI - Jan. 9 & 16, 2003)

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OFFICE STAFF 09204114147 ALISON

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AUCTION SALE

MEYCAUAYAN-FILIPINAS Pawnshop, Aliw Complex, Calvario, Meyc. Bulacan.
All unredeemed pledges of July 2002 will be auctioned on Jan. 21, 8:30 am.
Lanuza & Sons-Auctioneer

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE is given that the estate of the late **ANATALIA E. FUNTALVA** was extrajudicially settled among her heirs as per Doc#446, Page#90, Book#XXV, Series of 2002, under Notary Public Fernando Collantes of Manila.
(PDI-Jan. 9, 16 & 23, 2002)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late HILARIA V AUDENCIAL with waiver of rights has been extrajudicially settled among her brothers and sisters as per Doc. No. 85; Page No. 73; Book No. V; Series of 2002 before Notary Public Atty. Jose D. Miguel of Cuyapo Nueva Ecija.
(PDI- Jan. 9, 16 & 23, 2003)

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REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
SEVENTH JUDICIAL REGION
BRANCH 25
DANAO CITY

Land Reg. Case No. 158 • LRA Record No. N-75063

NOTICE OF INITIAL HEARING

To the Hon. Solicitor General, Office of the Solicitor General, 134 Amorsolo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City, the Director, Land Management Bureau, Escolta, Manila, the Regional Executive Director, Region VII-DENR, Mandaue City, the Hon. Secretary, Department of Public Works and Highways, Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, Manila, the Hon. Secretary, Department of Agrarian Reform, PTA Bldg., Elliptical Road, Diliman, the Director, Forest Management Bureau, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, both in Quezon City, Metro Manila, the Provincial Governor, the Provincial Prosecutor, the General Services Officer, the Provincial Engineer, the Public Works and Highways District Engineer, the CENR Officer, CENRO, Land Management Sector, all in Cebu City, the City Mayor, the City Council, the City Prosecutor, the City Treasurer, the City Engineer, Danao City, National Highway, DEPW, Regional Office No. VII, Lahug, Cebu City, San Antonio Road, c/o Brgy. Captain, Brgy. San Antonio, Danao City, Orlando Soliano, Celedonio Mant, Pacifico Dagatan, Vicente Perez, Roel Perez, Quinciano Balucan, Edilberto Perez, Ananias Juevesano, Durano and Sons Co., Inc., all in Brgy. Dungo-an, Danao City, Santa Cruz Road, c/o Brgy. Captain, Brgy. Sta. Cruz, Danao City, Brgy. Road, c/o Brgy. Captain, Brgy. Dungo-an, Danao City AND TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN.

An application having been filed in the above entitled case by SPS. RAMON D. DURANO III and ELIZABETH HOTCHKISS DURANO, RD Hills, Guinsay, Danao City thru Atty. David G. Ompoc, Crown Bldg., North Reclamation Area, SM, Cebu City praying for the registration and confirmation of the title to the following described lands:

1. A parcel of land (Lot 1, described on plan Psu-07-007077), situated in the Barangay of Dungo-an, City of Danao, Province of Cebu, Island of Luzon. Bounded on the NW., along line 1-2 by Lot 2, Psu-07-007077, on the NE., & NW., along lines 2-3-4-5-6-7 by Santa Cruz Road (10.00 m. wide), on the NE., along line 7-8 by National Highways (30.00 m. wide), on the SE., along lines 8 to 13 by San Antonio Road (10.00 m. wide) on the NW., SW., & SE., along lines 13 to 16 by Orlando Soliano, et al. on the NW., along line 16-1 by Lot 3, Psu-07-007077. Beginning at a point marked "1" on plan being N. 14 deg. 19'W., 3837.66 m. from BLLM No. 1, Cad-681-D

thence N. 05 deg. 44'E.,	103.10 m. to point 2;
thence S. 68 deg. 25'E.,	57.62 m. to point 3;
thence S. 87 deg. 47'E.,	112.26 m. to point 4;
thence S. 73 deg. 53'E.,	15.59 m. to point 5;
thence S. 87 deg. 38'E.,	15.03 m. to point 6;
thence N. 73 deg. 16'E.,	59.62 m. to point 7;
thence S. 06 deg. 36'E.,	215.51 m. to point 8;
thence S. 85 deg. 23'W.,	45.33 m. to point 9;
thence N. 81 deg. 09'W.,	50.63 m. to point 10;
thence S. 69 deg. 03'W.,	53.59 m. to point 11;
thence S. 57 deg. 59'W.,	61.78 m. to point 12;
thence S. 54 deg. 51'W.,	56.62 m. to point 13;
thence N. 02 deg. 46'W.,	48.21 m. to point 14;
thence N. 76 deg. 57'W.,	29.77 m. to point 15;
thence S. 38 deg. 22'W.,	35.52 m. to point 16;
thence N. 60 deg. 13'E.,	180.25 m. to point of

beginning, containing an area of SIXTY THREE THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED FORTY SEVEN (63,747) SQUARE METERS, more or less. All points referred to are indicated on the plan and are marked on the ground by PS cyl. Conc. Mons. 15x40 cms., bearings true, date of survey, October 7, 2000 executed by Geodetic Engineer Leonidas E. Gican and approved on January 24, 2002.

2. A parcel of land (Lot 2 described on plan Psu-07-007077), situated in the Barangay of Dungo-an, City of Danao, Province of Cebu, Island of Cebu. Bounded on the SW., & SE., along lines 1 to 4 by Celedonio Mant, on the SW., & SE., along lines 4 to 11 by Formerly Catalino Dagatan now Hrs. of Pacifico Dagatan, on the SE., along lines 11 to 14 by formerly Narciso Loro now Roel Perez, on the NW., & SW., along lines 14 to 19 by Vicente Perez, on the NW., along lines 19 to 24 by Barangay Road, on the NE., along lines 24 to 27 by Santa Cruz Road (10.00 m. wide), on the SE., along line 27-1 by Lot 1, Psu-07-007077. Beginning at a point marked "1" on plan being N. 14 deg. 19'W., 3837.66 m. from BLLM No. 1, Cad-681-D

thence N. 33 deg. 40'W.,	48.87 m. to point 2;
thence N. 00 deg. 47'W.,	35.53 m. to point 3;
thence S. 73 deg. 18'W.,	32.58 m. to point 4;
thence N. 82 deg. 17'W.,	16.58 m. to point 4;
thence N. 77 deg. 09'W.,	20.13 m. to point 6;
thence S. 78 deg. 07'W.,	13.26 m. to point 7;
thence S. 49 deg. 36'W.,	39.09 m. to point 8;
thence S. 30 deg. 04'W.,	10.68 m. to point 9;
thence S. 27 deg. 32'W.,	23.55 m. to point 10;
thence S. 14 deg. 38'W.,	22.31 m. to point 11;
thence S. 87 deg. 59'W.,	25.22 m. to point 12;
thence S. 84 deg. 04'W.,	25.08 m. to point 13;
thence S. 79 deg. 18'W.,	16.52 m. to point 14;
thence N. 07 deg. 08'E.,	40.96 m. to point 15;
thence N. 24 deg. 26'E.,	16.51 m. to point 16;
thence N. 06 deg. 29'W.,	15.15 m. to point 17;
thence N. 16 deg. 27'W.,	20.79 m. to point 18;
thence N. 81 deg. 01'W.,	23.48 m. to point 19;
thence N. 15 deg. 53'W.,	31.47 m. to point 20;
thence N. 11 deg. 27'E.,	38.76 m. to point 21;
thence N. 38 deg. 28'E.,	54.48 m. to point 22;
thence N. 20 deg. 29'E.,	34.95 m. to point 23;
thence N. 25 deg. 41'E.,	11.97 m. to point 24;
thence S. 41 deg. 23'E.,	56.36 m. to point 25;
thence S. 60 deg. 23'E.,	153.17 m. to point 26;
thence S. 66 deg. 35'E.,	42.54 m. to point 27;
thence S. 05 deg. 44'W.,	103.10 m. to point of

beginning, containing an area of THIRTY ONE THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED TWENTY TWO (31,722) SQUARE METERS, more or less. All points referred to are indicated on the plan and marked on the ground by P.S. cyl. Conc. Mons. 15x40 cms., bearings grid, date of survey October 7, 2000, executed by Geodetic Engineer Leonidas E. Gican and approved on January 24, 2002.

3. A parcel of land (Lot 3, described on plan Psu-07-007077), situated in the Barangay of Dungo-an, City of Danao, Province of Cebu, Island of Cebu. Bounded on the SE., along line 1-2 by Lot 1, Psu-07-007077, on the SE., along line 2-3 by Orlando Soliano, et al., on the SW., along line 3-4 by Lot 5366-D, along line 4-5 by Lot 5395 (Edilberto Perez) both Cad. 681-D on the NW., & SW., along lines 5 to 9 by Psu-211418 Durano & Co., Inc. on the NW., along line 9 to 13 by Formerly Catalino Dagatan now Hrs. of Pacifico Dagatan, on the NE., & NW., along lines 13-14-1 by Celedonio Mant. Beginning at a point marked "1" on plan being N. 14 deg. 19'W., 3837.66 m. from BLLM No. 1, Cad 681-D

thence S. 03 deg. 13'W.,	180.25 m. to point 2;
thence S. 38 deg. 25'W.,	8.56 m. to point 3;
thence N. 80 deg. 36'W.,	44.73 m. to point 4;
thence S. 65 deg. 35'W.,	56.95 m. to point 5;
thence N. 59 deg. 52'E.,	2.34 m. to point 6;
thence N. 55 deg. 54'E.,	9.13 m. to point 7;
thence N. 37 deg. 26'W.,	41.95 m. to point 8;
thence N. 14 deg. 24'W.,	17.90 m. to point 9;
thence N. 52 deg. 04'E.,	69.05 m. to point 10;
thence N. 17 deg. 12'W.,	25.09 m. to point 11;
thence N. 30 deg. 45'E.,	25.01 m. to point 12;
thence N. 38 deg. 47'E.,	44.22 m. to point 13;
thence S. 78 deg. 11'E.,	41.87 m. to point 14;
thence N. 23 deg. 55'E.,	22.50 m. to point of

beginning, containing an area of SIXTEEN THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED FIFTY ONE (16,251) SQUARE METERS, more or less. All points referred to are indicated on the plan and are marked on the ground by PS cyl. conc. mons. 15x40 cms., bearings grid, date of survey October 7, 2000, executed by Geodetic Engineer, Leonidas E. Gican and approved on January 24, 2002.

You are hereby served this notice to appear before this Court at its session to be held at Regional Trial Court, Danao City, Philippines on the 12th day of February, 2003 at 10:00 o'clock in the afternoon, then and there to present such claims as you may have to said lands or any portion thereof and to submit evidence in support of such claims and unless you appear at said Court at the time and place aforesaid your default will be recorded and the title to the lands will be adjudicated and determined in accordance with law and the evidence before the Court and thereafter you will forever be barred from contesting said application (or petition) or any decree entered thereon.

Witness the HON. SYLVIA G. AGUIRRE PADERANGA, Presiding Judge of said Court, the 25th day of September, 2002.

Issued at Quezon City, Philippines, this 20th day of November, 2002.

ATTEST:

(Sgd.) BENEDICTO B. ULEP
Administrator
Land Registration Authority

By:

(Sgd.) SALVADOR L. ORIEL
Chief, Docket Division

A True Copy

(Sgd.) ADELAIDA I. CARAIG
Chief, Publication of Notices Section

(PDI - January 16, 2003)

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

DHL Worldwide Express Philippines Corp. would like to announce that its **Official Receipts** with **Serial Numbers 103901-103950** and **222901-222950** were lost on May 23, 2002 and despite diligent efforts to find them, they were never recovered.

Therefore, the lost DHL official receipts are deemed null and void. They will not be accepted as valid proof of payment to DHL.

In case any person would find any of the lost receipts, or have any information that would lead to its recovery, or may be in possession of any of the lost receipts, please contact the undersigned law office at 897-1441.

Fernandez & Kasilag-Villanueva
Counsel for DHL Worldwide Express Philippines Corp.

Republic of the Philippines
Office of the President

COORDINATING COUNCIL FOR
PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID FOR CONSULTING SERVICES FOR THE MWSS 300 MLD TREATED BULK WATER SUPPLY PROJECT

The Coordinating Council for Private Sector Participation (CCPSP) intends to engage the services of local and/or US consulting firms to conduct the Technical Study and prepare Tender Documents for the proposed MWSS 300 MLD Treated Bulk Water Supply Project to be implemented under the Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) Law.

Interested firms are invited to submit three (3) copies of their expression of interest and details of their capabilities and related experience by forwarding their names and addresses properly identified as **"LETTER OF INTENT FOR CONSULTING SERVICES FOR THE MWSS 300 MLD TREATED BULK WATER SUPPLY PROJECT UNDER THE PROJECT DEVELOPMENT FACILITY (PDF)"** to the following address not later than February 5, 2003, 5 pm.
Late submission will not be accepted.

CHAIRPERSON
Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)
Coordinating Council for Private Sector Participation
6/F EDPC Bldg., Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
A. Mabini St., Malate, Manila
Tel. Nos.: 521-4262; 521-9287 • Fax: 525-4416

Consultant's Eligibility Forms and additional information may be obtained at the above address or at **http://ccpsp.org**

(Sgd.) **NOEL ELI B. KINTANAR**
Executive Director

(PDI--Jan. 16 & 23, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
Supreme Court
Manila

INVITATION TO BID

The Supreme Court invites interested concessionaires to submit quotations/proposals for the operation of Canteen located at the Multi-Purpose Building of the New Supreme Court Compound, Padre Faura Street, Manila, that will provide canteen services to more or less 2,500 employees.

Interested concessionaires may obtain the necessary pre-qualification requirements from the Secretariat, Committee on Bids, 4th Floor Centennial Bldg., Office of Administrative Services and must be personally submitted by the authorized representative at ***10:00 a.m. on January 29, 2003 at the 4th floor Multi-Purpose Hall Supreme Court.*** At the same time and date the pre-qualification shall be conducted. Bid documents, proposal forms and Terms and Conditions shall be issued to interested bidders by the COB upon payment of ***P500.00 pesos*** which is not refundable. ***The pre-bid conference shall be held on February 5, 2003 at 2:00 p.m. at the 4th Floor Multi-Purpose Building.***

Only bid of pre-qualified bidders who participated in the pre-bid conference will be accepted and opened at the time of the bidding ***on February 12, 2003 at 10:00 a.m. at the Multi-Purpose Hall, 4th Floor Annex Building, Supreme Court,*** to be witnessed by the bidders or their representatives.

The Supreme Court reserves the right to reject any or all quotations, and/or proposals, waive any defect of informality therein, accept any bid/s or offer/s which it may consider to be advantageous and beneficial to the government.

January 14, 2003.

(Sgd.) **JOSE P. PEREZ**
Chairman
Committee on Bids

PDI-January 16 & 23, 2003

For your Classified Ads requirements, call our Classifieds Advertising Hotlines:

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Republic of the Philippines
TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES AT CAVITE
CQT Avenue, Salawag, 4114 Dasmariñas, Cavite

LIST OF VACANT POSITIONS

(In compliance with R.A. 7041)

1 Clerk II, Salary Grade: 04; Basic Salary: P 6,522.00/mo.; Educational Qualification: Completion of two years studies in college; Experience: Non-Required; Training: Non-Required; Eligibility: Sub-Professional.

(Sgd.) **ENRICO R. HILARIO**
Executive Director

Republic of the Philippines
LOCAL CIVIL REGISTRY OFFICE
Province of Pangasinan
City of Urdaneta

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

In compliance with Section 5 of R.A. No. 9048, a notice is hereby served to the public that **NESTOR ABADICIO** has filed with this office a petition for change of first name from **ERNESTO** to **NESTOR** in the birth certificate of **ERNESTO BADICIO** who was born on **April 25, 1953** at **Sta. Ana, Cagayan** and whose parents are **DIONISIO ABADICIO** and **PETRA CARDENAS.**

Any person adversely affected by said petition may file his written opposition with this office not later than January 16, 2003.

(Sgd.)**MARFIE C. SORIANO-LUSTINA**
City Civil Registrar

HOPEWELL CROWN INFRASTRUCTURE, INC.
Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF BATANGAS
Batangas City
PHILIPPINE NATIONAL CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION
STAR INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY TO BID

All parties interested to bid for the projects described below are invited to submit their Application for Eligibility to Bid with the ***Provincial Government of Batangas.*** Only eligible contractors will be invited to participate in the forthcoming bidding.

A. Name of Projects : 1. South Luzon Tollway Extension Project (Calamba City to Sto.Tomas, Batangas Section)
2. Extension of Southern Tagalog Access Road (STAR) from Sto.Tomas, Batangas Section to Batangas City Section

B. Scope of Work : Construction of the above projects in their entirety or in segments/packages to be defined in the Bid Documents

C. Required PCAB Registration and Classification : "AAA" Large B

D. Cost of Prequalification Documents : PhP 5,000.00 (non-refundable)

E. Deadline of Submission of Accomplished Prequalification Documents : February 7, 2003

Place of Issuance : PBAC Secretariat Office of the Provincial Planning and Development Coordinator
Province of Batangas, Capitol Site, Batangas City

G. Time and date of the **Pre-Bid Conference**, the **Submission and Opening of Bids** shall be indicated in the **Notice of Eligibility**

Only contractors classified and registered with the Philippine Contractors' Accreditation Board (PCAB) with the appropriate Contractor's License and Registration Particulars will be issued Eligibility Forms. The Forms are available at the PBAC Secretariat, Office of the Provincial Planning and Development Coordinator, Province of Batangas, Capitol Site, Batangas City beginning on the first day of publication of this advertisement. Interested applicants are required to bring a letter of intent and original copy of the Contractor's valid PCAB License for verification/authentication purposes.

All particulars relative to the eligibility, bidding, evaluation of bids and awards of contract shall be governed by the Implementing Rules and Regulations of Executive Order No. 40, Series of 2001.

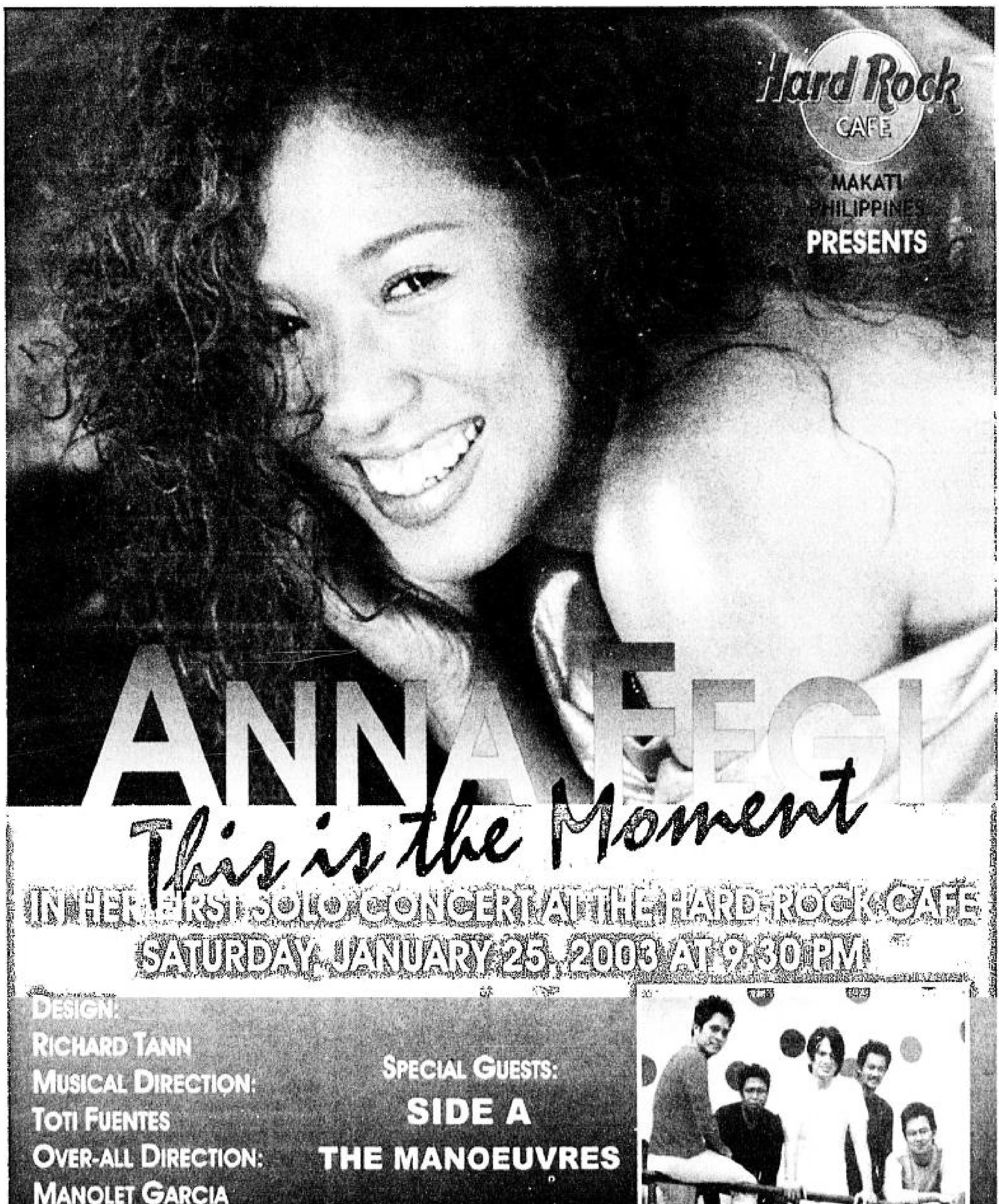
Further information may be obtained from the following:

PBAC Secretarial : Tel. Nos. (043) 723-2786

The Provincial Government of Batangas reserves the right to reject any and all bids, waive any informality in the proposals received and to accept such bid most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **HERMILANDO I. MANDANAS**
Governor, Province of Batangas

(PDI-Jan. 16, 2003)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THURSDAY, JANUARY 16, 2003

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"For my integrity you have supported me
and let me stand in your presence forever." **Psalm 41:13**

Our Beloved Inang

Feliciana G. Daus

Of Laur, Nueva Ecija

Peacefully joined her Creator
on January 12, 2003 at the age of 85.

Husband Ex-Mayor **Gabriel Sr.** (+); children **Susana** (+) & **Elpidio** (+) **de Castro, Francisco** (+) & **Anita** (+), **Sofronio** (+) & **Benita, Gabriel Jr. & Norma, Virgilio & Marides, Narciso & Patty, Eligia & Crisadel, Jose & Rose, Alvaro & Resy, Jovita & Alberto Recalde Sr.**; grandchildren, great grandchildren, relatives and friends request those whose lives she touched to join them in praising God for her life now in the company of her beloved Creator.

Her remains lie in state at the Daus residence in General Tinio, Laur, Nueva Ecija.

Interment will be on Saturday, January 18, 2003 at the Laur Cemetery, after the 8:00 a.m. Mass at the St. Stephen Catholic Church, Laur, Nueva Ecija.

CHUA CO PIN

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on January 11, 2003 at the age of 82.

His bereaved wife **Liberata** (+); children **Pet Tay & Dy Wan Bee, Alicia, Lily & Dr. Franklin Bravo, Melecia & Johnny Khonghun, Antonio & Aida Santos, Benjamin & Jesusa Go, Ma. Corazon, Linda & Jose Dio, Florencio & Regina Tan**; brothers, in-laws, grandchildren, great grandchildren, nephews and nieces request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the family residence at 199 San Miguel, Calasiao, Pangasinan.

Interment will be on Saturday, January 18, 2003 at Calasiao Cemetery after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at Sts. Peter and Paul Parish Church.

"A rare and great light has gone out, but one that has made all others shine brighter"

Ester Saulog Herrera

of Imus and Indang, Cavite

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord on January 14, 2003
at the age of 61.

Her loving husband **Dr. Rafael R. Herrera**, Ex-Mayor of Indang; children **Malu & Rommel Remulla, Greg & Joy, Lorna, Rafael Jr.** and **Lira**; grandchildren **Gizelle & Iana Remulla, CJ & Gio** and **Ado**; brothers and sisters, in-laws, nephews, nieces, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the family residence, 276 Balagtas St., Indang, Cavite.

Interment will be announced later.

Our Dearly Beloved

MA. LOURDES DE GUZMAN

Born : February 25, 1957
Died : January 13, 2003

Peacefully joined her Creator at the age of 45.

Her beloved husband **Carlos de Guzman**; children **Cherry, Roderick** and **Nida, Jefferson** and **Edna, Andrew** and **Gigi, Carlo Mari** and **Carlo Mark**;

Sister **Josephine**, brother **Isidro** and **Joseph**; sisters-in-law **Lourdes** and **Bernadette**; grandchildren **Bingle, Jem-Jem, Anton, Nicole, Angelo** and **Ralph**; nieces, nephews, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie at Kingsway St., Town and Country Estate, Antipolo, Rizal.

Interment will be on Friday, January 17, 2003 after the 3:00 p.m. Mass.

"In Christ all shall be made alive..." **Corinthians 15:22**

ASUNCION "NICA" V. VERGARA

Peacefully joined her Creator and her husband ***Dr. Feliciano Vergara***
on January 9, 2003 at the age of 87.

Her children **Nelin** (+) and **Adiela, Willie** and **Marissa**, and **Lynette**; grandchildren **Christine, Ann Marie, Marissa, Mark** and **Kathy Khoo, Michelle** and **John Whalley, Ma. Angelica** and **Patrick Go, Melvin** and **Janet Dy, Melissa**, and **Michael**; great grandchildren **Marco, Maia, Mariko, Martin, Maegan, Jason, Kyle, Kim** and **Aikee**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Capilla dela Virgen, Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati up to Friday, January 17, 2003 and will be transferred Saturday morning to Ilagan Memorial Chapel, Cabanatuan City.

Interment will be on Sunday, January 19, 2003 at 9:00 a.m. at Cabanatuan Catholic Cemetery, Cabanatuan City.

RUFINO RICAFRENTE REYES

of **Van Nuys, California & Gen. Trias, Cavite**
Peacefully joined his Creator on January 3, 2003.

His loving wife **Odeng**; children **Ronald & Josephine Reyes, Dr. Jose & Bel Isidro, Eileen & Zeev, Manny & Mirela Chavez, Arnel & Jo Reyes, Jeric & Cherry Reyes**; grandchildren, great grandchildren, & sisters request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body will arrive Wednesday and will lie in state at their family residence in Gen. Trias, Cavite.

Interment will be on Sunday, January 19, 2003 at 3:00 p.m.

Our Dearly Beloved Papa

Kagawad JOSE "JOE" B. VERCELES

Peacefully joined our Lord on January 13, 2003
at the age of 76.

His loving wife **Tomasa**; children **Joy** and **Ariel**; **Susan** and **Dan**; **Doods** and **Eugene**; **Edwin** and **Marie**; **Santi** and **Mabel**; **Ma. Agnes** and **Emmanuel** and all the grandchildren, brothers and sisters and other relatives, request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at St. Peter Memorial Chapels, Quezon Avenue, Q.C., from January 14 - 19, 2003 up to 9 a.m. and will be transferred on January 19 - 21 at Brgy. Hall of Brgy. Malamig, Cresta Circle, Mandaluyong City. Interment will be on January 21, 2003 at 11:00 a.m. at Manila Memorial Park, Dasmariñas, Cavite.

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OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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Quezon Ave., Angono, Rizal
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Ground Flr. Rolling Hills Chapel, 27th-Lacson St.,
Mandalagan, Bacolod City; Tel. 433-7132
RIZAL FUNERAL HOMES
438 Cementina St., Pasay City; Tels. 831-1204
Sucat Branch: 8187 Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat, Parañaque City
Tels. 826-1376; 826-9682; (0915) 712-1220
SANTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO PARISH
Forbes Park, Makati City; Tel. Nos. 843-8838/30; Fax No. 843-9223
SANTUARIO DE SAN JOSE PARISH
East Greenhills, Mandaluyong City; Telefax 724-4139; 725-2044
ST. ALPHONSUS MARY DE LIGOURI PARISH
Magallanes Village, Makati City; Tels. 852-8228; 852-7284
ST. MARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL
16-15 G. Tuazon cor. Loreto St., Sampaloc, Manila;
Tels. 749-3679; 781-1772
ST. PETER FUNERAL HOMES
296 Quezon Ave., Quezon City; Tels. 372-5084; 410-9286/87
VERONICA MEMORIAL HOMES
Official NBI Morgue 517-A Arnaiz St., Pasay City;
Tels. 831-3797; 844-7846; 843-1801; 845-4836
WELINGTON FUNERAL SERVICES
1511 Gen. Luna St., Paco, Manila;
Tels. 522-8846; 522-9438; 400-5394

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Finance
BUREAU OF CUSTOMS
PORT OF MANILA
Customs District II-A
South Harbor, Manila

NOTICE OF CLOSURE

Notice is hereby given that the Customs Bonded Warehouses (CBWs) enumerated in Annex "A" hereof and certain accredited members of Common and Trading CBWs enumerated in Annex "B" hereof were ordered closed by virtue of the Closure Orders issued by the District Collector of Customs, Port of Manila, and duly approved by the Commissioner of Customs pursuant to Section 1905 of the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines, as implemented by Customs Administrative Order No. 2-91 and Customs Memorandum Order No. 39-91.

The Closure Orders are without prejudice to the right of the Bureau to recover any outstanding liabilities of those CBWs such as due to unliquidated entries and unexplained withdrawals/ missing inventories as well as pursue other appropriate administrative/ legal actions against the concerned parties.

For the information of the Operators of subject CBWs and other parties concerned, this Notice of Closure is hereby issued at the Port of Manila, South Harbor, Port Area, Manila, this 13th day of January 2003.

RNicolas
Atty. REYNALDO S. NICOLAS
District Collector

Approved:
Atty. ANTONIO M. BERNARDO
Commissioner of Customs

ANNEX "A"

NAME	CBW NO.	ADDRESS	CLOSURE CASE NO.
Garnir	C-1252	880 G. Araneta Ave., Quezon City	C-001-0701
Wun Tong Ent.	C-1395	Sevilla Ave., Virginia Summerville, Bgy. Mayamot, Rizal	C-002-0701
Saldaña & Co.	C-1572	Jamon Bldg., Brixton St., Pasig City	C-011-0701
First Integrated	C-1497	No. 169 13th St., Port Area, Manila	C-012-0901
Pacific Rim	C-1301	Sitio Maligaya, Bo. Mayamot, Sumulong Highway, Antipolo, Rizal	C-013-0901
Toy City	C-1495	M.A. Roxas St., Tayug, Calumpang, Marikina	C-014-0901
Alla Quality Battery	M-1070	Marcos Highway, Santolan, Pasig City	M-005-0901
Biopharm/Biogeneric	M-1441	Oyster Comm. Complex, Ninoy Aquino, Sucat, Parañaque City	M-006-0901
Blue Mono Int'l	M-1568	344 Nueva St., Binondo, Manila	M-007-0901
Candex Corporation	M-1055	Km. 16, SS Highway, Severina Ind'l Village, Parañaque City	M-008-0901
Conrad Mark Mfg.	M-1454	Km. 28, Bo. Parugan, Antipolo, Rizal	M-009-0901
Constancy Sales	M-1311	South Pacific Metal Corp. Compd., Dr. Alejo Santos Ave., Parañaque, MM	M-010-0901
Delta Wood	M-1564	Bo. Pantok, Meycauayan, Bulacan	M-011-0901
Fuji Zipper	M-1269	110 Balibaran St., Valenzuela, M.M.	M-012-0901
Integrated Plastic	M-978	Peoples Technology Complex, Carmona, Cavite	M-013-0901
Int'l Wiring	M-1323	Luisita Ind'l Park, San Miguel, Tarlac, Tarlac	M-014-0901
Karexx Int'l	M-1606	No. 2 Silver Road, Gen. Luis St., Caloocan City	M-015-0901
Knitworks	M-1652	Tambubong, Bocaue, Bulacan	M-016-0901
Laiken Mfg.	M-1644	Malhacan, Meycauayan, Bulacan	M-017-0901
Leisure Sleep Far East	M-1141	2313 Aurora Blvd., Pasay City	M-018-0901
Luzel	M-1282	114 Eagle St., Bo. Ugong, Pasig City	M-019-0901
Metal Forming	M-1034	New Cavite Ind'l Estate, Bo. Buenavista, Gen. Trias, Cavite	M-020-0901
Nesium Wheels	M-1147	Bo. Punahin, Cabuyao, Laguna	M-021-0901
Phil Wan Umbrella	M-943	17th Floor, 13-A Lepanto Bldg., P. de Roxas, Makati City	M-022-0901
Plastikana Phils.	M-1095	Cor. Marian Rd. 1 & MDSR, East Service Rd., Parañaque City	M-023-0901
Richway Mfg.	M-1384	Bo. Dolores, Taytay, Rizal	M-024-0901
Serg Products	M-327	Ortigas Ave. Ext., Cainta, Rizal	M-025-0901
Silver Int'l	M-1483	Prenza, Marilao, Bulacan	M-026-0901
Well World Toys	M-1125	399-B Real St., Talon, Las Piñas City	M-027-0901
Yamik Trading	M-1254	Victoria Wave Ltd. Comp., Bo. Malaria, Tala, Caloocan City	M-028-0901
Ace Shirt Factory	G-1393	Katarungan St., Mandaluyong City	G-001-0701
Ace Style	G-1296	86 E. Rodriguez Ave., Libis, Quezon City	G-002-0701
Baird Outwear	G-1270	Km 24 Emilio Aguinaldo Highway, Anabu II, Imus, Cavite	G-003-0701
Bratex Mfg. Co., Inc.	G-1073	Canlalay, San Pedro, Laguna	G-004-0701
Cohin Phils., Inc.	G-1521	Km 24 Emilio Aguinaldo Highway, Anabu II, Imus, Cavite	G-005-0701
De Soliel Apparel	G-944	H 1 Victoria Ave., Araneta University Village, Malabon, M.M.	G-006-0701
Duk Seung Garments	G-1524	175 Gen. L. Wood St., Bo. Dolores, Taytay, Rizal	G-007-0701
Escala Garments	G-754	Sumulong Highway, Antipolo, Rizal	G-008-0701
Everfit Mfg. Corp.	G-43	Km. 18 East Service Road, South Superhighway, Parañaque, M.M.	G-009-0701
Fairtrade Int'l	G-980	Dimayuga Cmpd., Cabrera St., Bo. Dolores, Taytay, Rizal	G-010-0701
Fairway Garment	G-993	77 A. Scout Ojeda St., Quezon City	G-011-0701
Fantastic Garments	G-927	Cabuyao, Laguna	G-012-0701
Filtex Mfg.	G-893	North Dimension Road, Canuman, Valenzuela	G-013-0701
G.G. Sportswear	G-1007	Km 16 Severina Diamond Subd., Parañaque, M.M.	G-014-0701
Garnir Philippines	G-631	10th Floor F. Houston Bldg., Emerald Ave., Ortigas Center Bldg.	G-015-0701
Gimbels Garments	G-809	1-G Molina St., Bagbagin, Valenzuela, M.M.	G-016-0701
Hammer Garments	G-1117	Bo. Sauyo Road, Novaliches, Quezon City	G-017-0701
Ilang-Ilang	G-1528	#3 Ilang-Ilang St., Quezon City	G-018-0701
Judy Philippines	G-106	Km 14 Cor. Edison St., South Superhighway, Parañaque City	G-019-0701
Lavine Loungewear	G-1011	601 Carlo J. Caparas, Bo. Ugong, Pasig City	G-020-0701
Le Arc Mfg.	G-765	Rizal cor. Angara At., Poblacion, Muntinlupa City	G-021-0701
Moviestar Garments	G-1337	United Glorietta Subd., Caniogan, Pasig City	G-022-0701
Philshin Mfg. Corp.	G-1204	38-D Bonifacio St., East Canumay, Valenzuela, M.M.	G-023-0701
Philsport Garment	G-1059	Nicanor St., Quezon City	G-024-0701
Regent Apparel	G-1504	Malungay St., FTI Complex, Taguig, M.M.	G-025-0701
Rococo Apparel	G-1421	NHA Ind'l Site, Bo. Menuyan, Sapang Palay, Bulacan	G-026-0701
Scherer Fashion	G-1571	Dasmariñas, Cavite	G-027-0701
Sehwani Inc.	G-652	172 C. Raymundo Ave., Maybunga, Pasig City	G-028-0701
Shentex Inds.	G-1018	278 T. Santiago St., Dalandanan, Valenzuela, M.M.	G-029-0701
Suntex Garments	G-1553	Bldg. A. Philcrest Comp./Km. 23 Bo. Cupang, Muntinlupa City	G-030-0701
Suntex International	G-1266	#870 Quirino Highway, Gulod, Novaliches, Quezon City	G-031-0701
Syncomm Inds.	G-1488	Paco, Manila	G-032-0701
Sasari Pacific	G-1317	8 B. Jenny Ave., Pasig City	G-033-0701
TML Garments	G-741	808 Armila Comp., Km. 17 South Superhighway, Parañaque City	G-034-0701
Uniwear Inc.	G-349	7707 St. Paul St., San Antonio Village, Makati City	G-035-0701
Victory Int'l	G-974	131 Banana Road, Malabon, M.M.	G-036-0701
3D Industries	P-627	627 Santolan, Pasig City	P-001-0701
A.L. Maula	P-797	705 Ral St., Intramuros, Manila	P-002-0701
A.P. Warehousing	P-674	Atlanta, Port Area	P-003-0701
ALFA Integrated Textile	P-632	1541 M. del Pilar cor. Cuarteles, Ermita, Manila	P-004-0701
Alliance Textile Mills	P-630	1284 Banaybanay, Cabuyao, Laguna	P-005-0701
Allied Bkg.	P-10-A	422 Sta. Lucia, Intramuros, Manila	P-006-0701
ANSCOR Transport	P-2,2-A & 2-C	355 Solana St., Intramuros, Manila	P-007-0701
Aries Freight	P-732	212 Magallanes, Manila	P-008-0701
Asian Terminal Inc.	P-1575	Baseco Comp., Mariveles, Bataan	P-009-0701
ASS Anglo Tobacco Corp.	P-470	Dimasalang St., Pasay City	P-010-0701
Atlas Textile Mills	P-166	San Bartolome, Novaliches	P-011-0701
Aura Laboratories	P-742	Quirino Ave., Parañaque	P-012-0701
Bachrach	P-499	Chicago St., Port Area, Manila	P-013-0701
Bollard Chandlers	P-1530	Dunhill St., Fairview, Quezon City	P-014-0701
Bridgestone Automotive	P-719	1915 Taft Ave., Pasay City	P-015-0701
Bueno Ind'l and Dev't	P-168	SGV Bldg., Legaspi Village, Makati	P-016-0701
Central Textile Mills	P-172	Balintawak, Quezon City	P-017-0701
Columbia Textiles	P-569	Carmen Planas St., tondo, Manila	P-018-0701
Conrad Mark	P-653	Km 31, Antipolo, Rizal	P-019-0701
Consolidated Mills	P-128 & 128-A	Bo. Sucat, Muntinlupa, Rizal	P-020-0701
Consolidated Terminals	P-81-C	2nd St., Port Area, Manila	P-021-0701
Corporate Bkg.	P-795	Mercantillo Bldg., Intramuros, Manila	P-022-0701
Crown Bkg.	P-665	Cabilla St., Intramuros, Manila	P-023-0701
DCIC	P-128 & 128-A	575 Atlanta St., Port Area, Manila	P-024-0701
Delta Motor	P-321	2285 Pasong Tamo, Makati	P-025-0701
Destilleria Limtuaco	P220	Edsa, Balintawak, Quezon City	P-026-0701
DMG/Radiowealth	P-170 & P-170-A	E. Rodriguez Ave., Quezon City	P-027-0701
Dynowestfarmers	P-1570	Bo. Munting Batangas, Balanga, Bataan	P-028-0701
E.C. Medalla & Co.	P-426	2701 New Panaderos, Sta. Ana, Manila	P-029-0701
Eastern Paper Mills	P-444	Marikina City	P-030-0701
Eastern Textile Mills	P-160	Malhacan, Meycauayan, Bulacan	P-031-0701
Eastern Chem. Inc.	P-340	V.P. Mapa St., Sta. Mesa	P-032-0701
Elizalde Steel Construction	P-167	141 Ayala Ave., Makati City	P-033-0701
Emperor Textiles	P-714	Atlas Rd., San Bartolome, Novaliches, Quezon City	P-034-0701
ESSO Standard	P-714	107 U.N. Ave., Manila	P-035-0701
Estampador Ent.	P-572-A	Santos Bldg., Plaza Lacson, Sta. Cruz, Manila	P-036-0701
Executive Bkg.	P-161 & 161-A	Salcedo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City	P-037-0701
Far East Starch	P-887	Granada St., Quezon City	P-038-0701
Fil Hispano	P-667	Mc Arthur Highway, Valenzuela, Bulacan	P-039-0701
Fil Oil Refinery	P-5 & 5-A	7901 Makati Ave., Makati City	P-040-0701
Filipinas Hino	P-884	E. Santos Ave., cor. Madison St., Mandaluyong City	P-041-0701
Filipinas Text Mills	P-551	Bo. San Roque, Cainta, Rizal	P-042-0701
Gen Bag Container	P-491	Bagong Bayan, Libis, Quezon City	P-049-0701
Gen Milling Corp.	P-576	E. Rodriguez Ave., Bo. Ugong, Pasig City	P-050-0701
Gen Motors	P-616	Peñafrancia Extension, Paco, Manila	P-051-0701
Genoveva Manlapit	P-242	165 Mayor Cor. Retiro, Quezon City	P-052-0701
Gentex	P-137	E. Rodriguez, Libis, Quezon city	P-053-0701
Giant Int'l Freight Trading	P-1527	Sumulong Highway, Bo. Mayamot, Bulacan	P-054-0701
GM Phil. Mfg.	P-599	Almanza, Trans. Plant, Las Piñas	P-055-0701
Allied Thread Co.	P-757	Maybunga, Pasig, M.M.	P-056-0901
Apex Mining Corp.	P-815	4th Floor Ortigas Bldg., Ortigas Ave., Pasig City	P-057-0901
Artex Dev't	P-119	Panghulo, Malabon, Rizal	P-058-0901
Blue Printing	P-350-A	#500 Palanca St., Quiapo, Manila	P-059-0901
Caltex Phils.	P-1574	Pandacan Terminal, Paco, Manila	P-060-0901
Central Steel Mfg.	P-437	#628 Sultan St., Mandaluyong, Rizal	P-061-0901
Continental Cement	P-403	2nd Floor Triumph Bldg. 1, 1610 Quezon Ave., Quezon City	P-062-0901
Continental Steel Mfg	P-127	Pioneer, cor. Madison St., Mandaluyong City	P-063-0901
DOLE Phils.	P-405	Sterial's Compd., Cainta, Rizal	P-064-0901
DOWD Corp.	P-904	Sucat, Parañaque City	P-065-0901
East Carpet	P-890	Brixton St., Kapitolyo, Pasig, M.M.	P-066-0901
Eastman Chem. Inc.	P-340-A	#3412 V. Mapa St., Sta. Mesa, Manila	P-067-0901
East Pacific Bkg.	P-992	Bldg. II, Lapu-lapu Ave., Navotas, M.M.	P-068-0901
Evertex	P-634	#43 Boston, Quezon City	P-069-0901
Filipinas Electro Ind'l	P-559	#341 McArthur H-way, Valenzuela City	P-070-0901
Gen Rubber & Footwear	P-837	Northern Hills, Malabon, M.M.	P-071-0901
Gillette Phils.	P-904	Sucat, Parañaque City	P-072-0901
Golden Country Farm	P-746	2316 Aurora Blvd., Pasay City	P-073-0901
Grolac Food	P-820	153 Quirino Ave., Parañaque City	P-074-0901
Grand Textile Mills	P-462	McArthur Hi-way, Bulacan	P-075-0901
Hayari Trading	P-743	6th Floor Legaspi Village, Makati City	P-076-0901
Hitachi Union	P-539	Sangandan, Novaliches, Quezon City	P-077-0901
Honda Cars	P-1599	Laguna Technopark, Sta. Rosa, Laguna	P-078-0901
Interlining Corp.	P-764	Rodriguez Ave., Quezon City	P-079-0901
Int'l Chemical Ind.	P-432	Guiguinto, Bulacan	P-080-0901
Int'l Harvester	P-698	Lubiran, Bacood, Sta. Mesa	P-081-0901
Inter Resin Ind'l Corp.	P-735	Gen. De Leon St., Karuhatan, Valenzuela City	P-082-0901
ICC Far East Phil	P-697	Filcapital Bldg., Ayala Ave., Makati City	P-083-0901
Jethmal Ind.	P-683	Magdalo St., Bo. Ugong, Makati City	P-084-0901
Juan Yutengco	P-643	Plaza del Conde San Nicolas	P-085-0901
Johannesburg	P-908	57 Honmark Rd., Baesa, Quezon City	P-086-0901
Jocardo Bonded Whse.	P-843	Bo. Patubig, Marilao, Bulacan	P-087-0901
J.Y. Whsing Co.	P-771	2225 Marconi St., Makati City	P-088-0901
Kanebo Cosmetics	P-826	Bo. Kabilang Baybay, Carmona, Cavite	P-089-0901
Kingtext Int'l Corp.	P-624	Pureza St., Sta. Mesa, Manila	P-090-0901
La Fumar Marketing	P-703	202 Roxas Blvd., Pasay City	P-091-0901
LIRAG Textile Mills	P-132	Acacia, Malabon, Rizal	P-092-0901
Mabuhay Bkg.	P-98	Beaterio St., Intramuros, Manila	P-094-0901
Mabuhay Textile Mills	P-553	Santos Ave., Parañaque City	P-095-0901
Makati Supermarket	P-516	Ayala Ave., Makati City	P-096-0901
Manila Paper Mills	P-219	Sangandan, Novaliches, Quezon City	P-097-0901
Manila Rubber Corp.	P-656	Bo. Talipapa, Novaliches	P-098-0901
Mannie & Co. Chemical	P-658	Quirino Hi-way, Novaliches	P-099-0901
Marine Chem of the Phils.	P-885	303 Erechem Bldg., Legaspi Village, Makati City	P-100-0901
Marinduque Mining	P-417	2283 Pasong Tamo, Makati City	P-101-0901
Marson Ind'l	P-847	Diamond Motor Bldg., Ortigas Ave., San Juan	P-102-0901
Marsteel Corp.	P-464	T. Sora Ave., Baesa, Quezon City	P-103-0901
Mauritius Pulp	P-1291	Bo. Kangkong, Balintawak, Quezon City	P-104-0901
Mecca Ind. Inc.	P-808	704 Del Monte Ave., Quezon City	P-105-0901
Meralco	P-427	Ortigas Ave., Quezon City	P-106-0901
Merchant Warehousing	P-738	P'que Light Ind., San Dionisio, Parañaque City	P-107-0901
Mina Amapola Trading	P-617	683 Magallanes, Intramuros, Manila	P-108-0901
Mobil Phils.	P-1543	Pandacan Terminal, Paco, Manila	P-109-0901
Modern Textile Mills	P-606	278 Santiago, Paltok, Valenzuela	P-110-0901
Nat'l Housing Corp.	P-519	Tala Estate, Caloocan City	P-111-0901
3M Phils.	P-905	Km. 20 South Superhighway	P-112-0901
Hyatt Regency	P-20	2702 Roxas Blvd., Pasay City	P-113-0901
Imperial Textile Mills	P-557	Km. 21, McArthur Hi-way, Marilao, Bulacan	P-114-0901
Nat'l. Steel Corp.	P-731	377 G. Puyat Ave., Makati City	P-115-0901
Nissan Motor Phils.	P-1471	Bo. Pulong, Sta. Rosa, Laguna	P-116-0901
Nobel Phils.	P-720	Republic Glass Bldg., Salcedo Village, Makati City	P-117-0901
Nutritional FoodProd.	P-661	Buendia Ave. Extension, Makati City	P-118-0901
P. Tamo Importing & Mktg.	P-691	2283 Pasong Tamo Ext., Makati City	P-119-0901
Paramount Chemical	P-819	434 Q. Paredes St., Manila	P-120-0901
Parke Davis & Co.	P-300	Delos Santos Av e., Mandaluyong, Rizal	P-121-0901
Pennel Comm'l Co. Inc.	P-693-A	2284 Alzen House, P. Tamo Ext., Makati City	P-122-0901
Pepsi Cola Trade Dev't.	P-374	Bo. Bagong Ilog, Pasig	P-123-0901
Permaline Ind'l	P-768	111 E. Rodriguez Ave., Quezon City	P-124-0901
Permaline Metal	P-776	Rizal St., Nangka, Marikina	P-125-0901
Petro Phils. Corp.	P-411	7901 Makati Ave., Makati City	P-126-0901
Phil. Alliance Corp.	P-376	A. Santos Ave., Parañaque City	P-128-0901
Phil. Asbestos Roofing	P-726	1210 Ermita Ctr., 1350 Roxas Blvd.	P-129-0901
Phil. Fabrikoid	P-272	Banawe St., Quezon City	P-130-0901
Phil. Glazing	P-822	65 Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City	P-131-0901
Phil. Journalist	P-711	Chronicle Bldg., Meralco Ave., Pasig City	P-132-0901
Phil. National Railways	P-175	Caloocan City	P-133-0901
Phil. Plate Mills	P-856	ACB Bldg., 666 Kalaw, Ermita, Manila	P-134-0901
Phil. Polymide	P-670	Laurel Foundation, Roxas Blvd.	P-135-0901
Phil. Steel Coating	P-852	New Solid Bldg., Buendia Ext., Makati City	P-136-0901
Phil. Tobacco Filters	P-554	180 Salcedo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City	P-137-0901
Pioneer Texturizing	P-620	433 Pascual St., Mandaluyong City	P-138-0901
Polysterene	P-618	Paseo de Blas, Valenzuela	P-139-0901
Precision Elect.	P-816	Bo. Mapandan Ave., Taytay, Rizal	P-140-0901
Producers Packaging	P-850	Int. Quirino, Baesa, Quezon City	P-141-0901
Ramie Textile Mills	P-228	Bo. Bagbaguin, Valenzuela	P-142-0901
Raymundo Trading	P-400	Rev. Aglipay, Mandaluyong City	P-143-0901
Reliance Whsg.	P-253	573 Quirino Ave., Parañaque	P-144-0901
Republic Flour Mills	P-182	Pioneer St., Pasig, Rizal	P-145-0901
Riverside Mills	P-45	Ortigas Ave., Pasig, Rizal	P-146-0901
Riverside Services	P-194-A	Santibañez, Cristobal St., Paco, Manila	P-147-0901
Royal Ceramic/Porcelain	P-568	704 Del Monte Ave., Quezon City	P-148-0901
Sumadchat Warehouse	P-238	556 Magallanes St., Intramuros, Manila	P-149-0901
Rustans	P-138	2150 Pasong Tamo, Makati City	P-150-0901
San Miguel Corp.	P-62	6766 Ayala Ave., Makati City	P-151-0901
Sergs Products	P-171	169 Cordillera St., Quezon City	P-152-0901
Sigma Mariwasa	P-573	Rodriguez Ave., Bo. Ugong, Quezon City	P-153-0901
Silangan Textile Mills	P-534	De Jesus, Balut, Navotas	P-154-0901
Solid Dev't	P-833	1927 J. Bocobo, Malate, Manila	P-155-0901
Spandex Phils.	P-613	Quirino Hi-way, Novaliches	P-156-0901
Sta. Ana Whse.	P-744	1625 A. Francisco St., Sta. Ana, Manila	P-157-0901
Steel Weld Corp.	P-878	Ajinomoto Bldg. Buendia Ave., Makati City	P-158-0901
Synthetic Textiles	P-141	356 Selang, Intramuros, Manila	P-159-0901
Tamaraw Transport	P-763	Grace Park, Caloocan	P-160-0901
Tierra Factors	P-766	Elect. Ave. Complex, Taguig	P-161-0901
Toyota Motor Phils.	P-1171	Km. 15 South Superhighway, Parañaque City	P-162-0901
Traders Bkg. & Whsg.	P-687	Abad Santos Bldg., Taft Ave., Manila	P-163-0901
Ubix Corp.	P-679	1331 Angono St., Makati City	P-164-0901
Union Chem. Inc.	P-266-A	Bo. Ugong, Pasig	P-165-0901
Union Ind. Inc.	P-205-A	1224 Delos Santos Ave., Quezon City	P-166-0901
United Textile Mills	P-115	Manggahan, Pasig, Rizal	P-167-0901
Universal Textile Mills	P-326	Bo. Rosario, Pasig	P-168-0901
Universal Tricot	P-633	Cainta, Rizal	P-169-0901
Vallan Invt. Associates	P-896	941 Ilaya St., Tondo, Manila	P-170-0901
Vanguard Whsg. Corp.	P-663	Magsaysay Blvd., Sta. Mesa	P-171-0901
Warner Barnes	P-831	2900 Faraday cor. S.S. Hi-way, Makati	P-172-0901
Waterways Services	P-1548	304 J.P. Rizal, Mandaluyong City	P-173-0901
Winsome Food Prods.	P-913	95 Francisco St., Caloocan City	P-174-0901
Y Engineering Corp.	P-212	Dolores St., Pasay City	P-175-0901
Yupangco Cotton Mills	P-251-A	Buendia, Makati City	P-176-0901
Phil. Nagano Seiko, Inc.	M-1419	Blk. 3 Lot 15 & 16 P.T.C. Carmona, Cavite	M-29-1201
Design Products Mfg. Inc.	M-910	22 V.V. Soliven Avenue, Manggahan, Pasig	M-30-0102
Athletic Design Intl. Corp.	M-1381	Bo. Tikling, Taytay, Rizal	M-31-0102
Pilipinas YTK, Inc.	M-1476	Bo. Tipas, Taguig, Metro Manila	M-32-0102
Matsushita Business Corp.	M-1611	Bo. Mapandan, Ortigas Ave. Ext. Taytay, Rizal	M-33-0302
Laguna Auto Parts Mfg. Corp.	M-1627	102 South Science Ave., LTI, Santa Rosa, Laguna	M-34-0302
Matsushita Communication Corp.	M-1072-A	Laguna Technopark, Barangay Don Jose, Sta. Rosa, Laguna	M-35-0302
Republic Asahi Glass Corp.	M-1368	Bo. Pinagbuhatan, Pasig City	M-36-0502
Coil Tech Manila Inc.	M-1344	City Industrial Corp., F.P. Felix Ave., Cainta, Rizal	M-37-0502
Handwell Electronics Corp.	M-1487	Km. 19 Ortigas Ave. Ext., Cainta, Rizal	M-38-0502
Saehan Philtex Inc.	M-1664	Barangay San Felix Sto. Tomas, Batangas	M-39-0602
Concept Moulding Corp.	M-1698	Villa Liwayway St., Villa Subd., Maysan Road, Val. City	M-40-0602
HYCL Phils. Inc.	M-1151	Bulalakaw St., Mandaluyong City	M-41-0602
Sandy Corporation	M-1200	Crisanta Floro St. cor. Pasig City	M-42-0602
Hi-Precision Steel Center, Inc.	M-1351	CCIE-MEAI Bo. Maduya, Carmona, Cavite	M-43-0802
Yasaki Torres Mfg. Inc.	M-629	Brgy. Makiling, Calamba, Laguna	M-44-0802
YTM Component	M-1062	Brgy. Makiling, Calamba, Laguna	M-45-0802
Asian Transmission Corp.	M-1481	Brgy. Makiling, Calamba, Laguna	M-46-0902
Associated Wire Corp. of the Phils.	M-1389	Amang Rodriguez Ave., Santolan, Pasig City	M-47-1002
3M Phils. Inc.	M-1040	Km. 20, South Superhighway, Muntinlupa, Metro Manila	M-48-1002
Interace Cycle, Inc.	M-1569	Km. 28 E. Aguinaldo Highway, Salitrans, Cavite	M-49-1102
Povera International Corp.	M-1643	Bo. Maguyam, Silang, Cavite	M-50-1102
Computer Recyclers (Aust) Phils. Inc.	M-1331	10 Perfecto Drive, Sta. Maria Industrial Estate, Bagumbayan	M-51-1202
CDI Sakata Inx. Corp.	M-1671	Don Jesus Blvd., Alabang Hills Village, Alabang, Muntinlupa City	M-52-1102
All Round Fashion, Inc.	G-1692	Brgy. Bagong Pook, Lipa City, Batangas	G-37-0102
Izumi Garments Manufacturing, Inc.	G-1685	888 F. Legaspi St., Parkwood Village, Maybunga, Pasig City	G-38-0202
Everfit Mfg. Corp.	G-43	Km. 18 East Service Road, South Superhighway, Parañaque, M.M.	G-39-0802

Annex "B"

Accredited Members of COMMON BONDED WAREHOUSES with **closure orders:**

Name	Members	CBW No.	Closure Case No.
SALDANA & CO.		C-1572	C-011-0701
	Camy Apparel		
	Chairman Garments		
	Chancellor		
	Delta Multibusiness		
	Lei Garments		
	M Garments		
PHILFOODEX BONDED WHSE. CORP.		C-1338	C-010-0701
	Bavaria Food Processing		
	Filkor Intl. Corp.		
Phil. Investors Common Bonded Whse.		C-1538	C-009-0701
	Euro Asia Handicraft		
	Joint Culture		
	Int'l. Wig Creations		
	Gitoy Electronics		
	Sung-A		
	Sung Moo		
	Ya Liang Mfg. Corp.		
Phil. Integ. (MFTRS.) Exporters Inc.		C-0794	C-007-0701
	Country Exports		
	Southwoods Apparel		
Phil. Bonded Whse. Services Inc.		C-1415	C-006-0701
	A.D. Mfg.		
	Clothespack		
Mercedes Intl. Export Corp.		C-1479	C-005-0701
	Jeaneries Enterprises		
	Knights Garments		
	Kruftwerk Int.l. Apparel		
	Lei Garments Mfg.		
	Limech Garments		
	Loyal Garments (Luzon) Inc.		
Luzon Rattan Inds.		C-1208	C-004-0701
	Diamond Packaging		
La Fortuna Textile Mfg.		C-1140	C-003-0701
	Argon Apparel		
	Belltrade Int'l.		
	Elimar Garments		
	Essence Phils.		
	King Friend		
	Kingtex Garments		
	KTK Garments		
	Quarter Fashion		
	Saks Fashion		
	Tak Garments		
Generic Ent. Corp.		C-1395	C-002-0701
	Wun Tong Ent.		
Garnir		C-1252	C-001-0701
	Bama		
	Cheung Wing		
	Classic Trend		
	D'Sunrex		
	Esvee Apparel		
	Fina Garments		
	Gorgeous Apparel		
	Grand Orient		
	Joselina		
	Megatex		
	New Frontier		
	Quick Knit		
	R.K. Pena		
	San Nicolas		
	Skiva Jeans		
	Toshica		
Phil. Int.'l Trading Corp.		C-0925	C-008-0701
	Anado Manila Ent.		
	Bayshore Export		
	Filsino		
	Product Trades		
	SKM Artcraft Corp.		
	Tact Imaging Supplies		

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MOTORING

Editor **Cesar D. Mangawang**

13% growth no reason to rejoice, says TMA

By Tessa R. Salazar

SHOULD auto assemblers clink their wine glasses if they sold more vehicles in 2002 compared to 2001?

If sales growth was a "measly" 13 percent, then it's more like back to the drawing boards.

Truck Manufacturers Association president Elizabeth H. Lee told the INQUIRER that although automakers made some gains, the growth had been, in fact, costly for them as well.

Marketing schemes

The growth, described Lee, had been due more to the strong promo campaigns, cash rebates, discounts and financing packages that were offered by most brands to make their products more financially attractive.

"Assemblers not only competed with each other, they also had to contend with cheap used vehicle imports. How long can we keep up?"

Lee noted that the marketing schemes continued to erode the profitability of companies, the same companies, she said, the government relied on to export.

Said Lee: "Even with the horde of cheap imported used vehicles available, it is interesting to note that buyers still held back their purchases. The reason buyers are holding back would be interesting to know."

Other Asean nations

And compare the local auto industry's growth with the progression of its counterparts in other Asean nations, the 13-percent increase even seems like a shame.

Take Thailand, for example. Its vehicle production increased to over 460,000 units—partly due to the full-scale exports of General Motors' vehicles.

Malaysia's vehicle production was 500,000, and its automakers have continued to expand its production and exports. Its vehicle market almost recovered to the precrisis level (2001 figures).

Indonesia's vehicle production continues to expand by increasing its CBU exports.

China, described by Lee as "the envy of all," has produced 2.4 million vehicles in 2001 alone, making it the 8th largest automotive-producing country in the world.

In contrast, the Philippine auto industry sold 86,719 motor vehicles in 2002.

Lee said proper economic management and coordination of policies have become more critical for the success of companies operating in the country.

On top of all that, the industry must also consider protecting the environment, she added.

Motorcycle riders benefit more from cleaner air

By Charles E. Buban

EVERYBODY will benefit from clean air, even the motorcyclists who recently staged a protest against some of the rulings enforced under the Clean Air Act.

First to benefit

A major motorcycle manufacturer in the country recently said motorcycle riders are the first beneficiaries of the Clean Air Act which calls for cleaner fuel and strict emission standards for cars, trucks, buses and even motorcycles.

"Unlike those who drive cars, motorcyclists are exposed to the elements. The cleaner the air, the better it is for them," believed Manuel Sta. Cruz, president of S.C. Kymco Pilipinas, a subsidiary of Kymco Taiwan.

Most strict

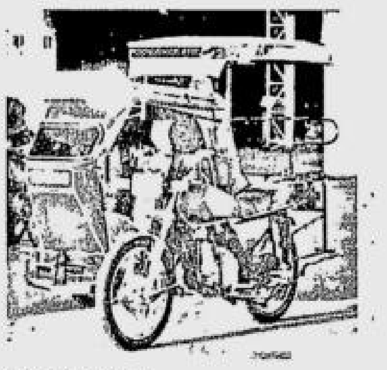
Kymco is among the most strict companies when it comes to emissions. In Taiwan, which holds the distinction as having the highest emission standards in the world, Kymco leads all companies in having the most environment-friendly products.

The Taiwanese motorcycle giant Kwang Yang Motor Co. (Kymco) recently hailed the Philippine government for the Clean Air Act that takes effect at the beginning of the year.

Less polluting

Sta. Cruz noted that although motorcycles are known to be less polluting compared to four-wheeled vehicles, still, many two-wheelers are guilty of spewing toxic gases.

"This is due mainly to the abuse of the motorcycles and wrong maintenance habits of motorcycle users," he said.



KARGADOR

He noted that two-stroke motorcycles would not be emitting white clouds of smoke if not for the use of wrong lubricants practiced by many tricycle drivers.

Clamor for 4 strokes

Heeding the clamor for more four-stroke engines—which many believe will further reduce the levels of hydrocarbon, a substance emitted in two-stroke engines and is harmful to the environment—Kymco has developed a four-stroke motorcycle called Kargador.

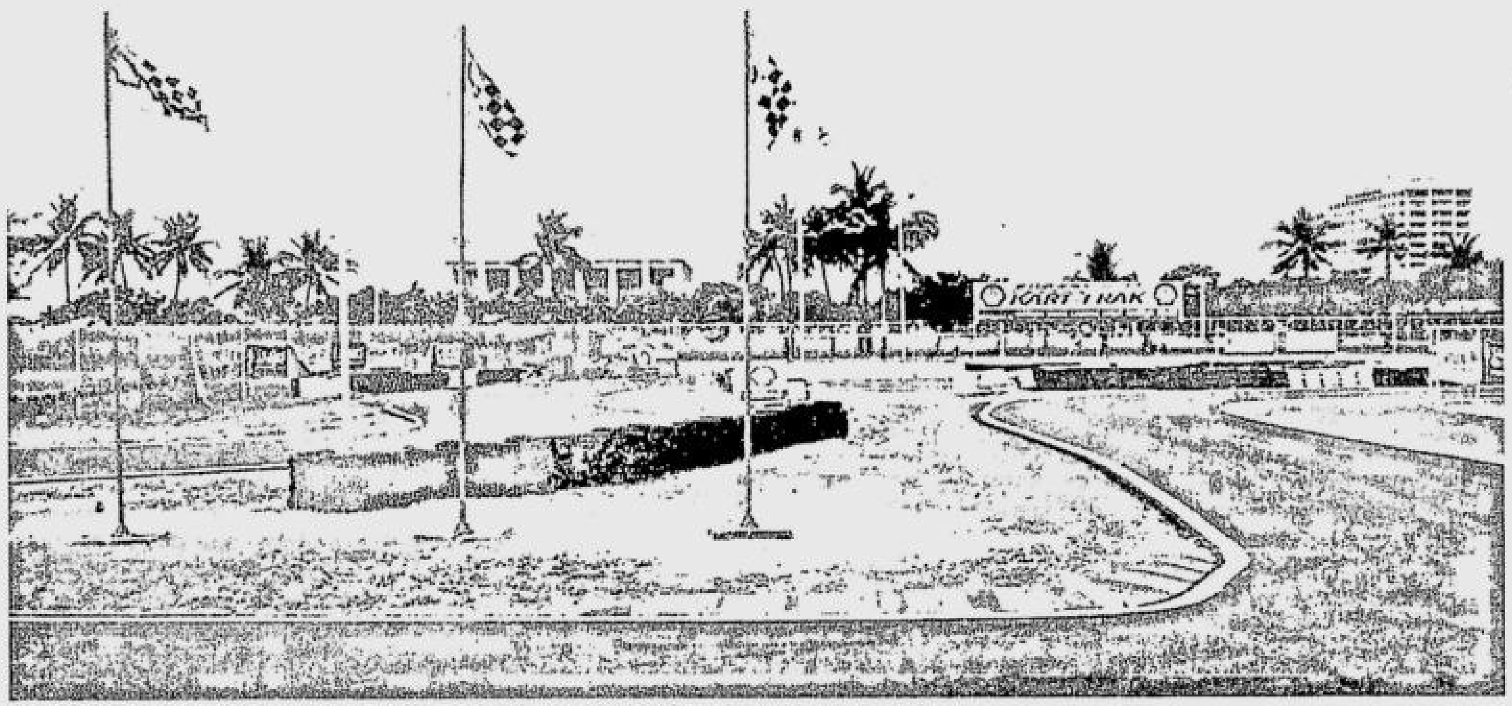
The Kargador, which means porter in Filipino, is conceived for heavy loads.

"We know exactly how Filipinos use their tricycles so we designed the Kargador to withstand years of use and abuse," Sta. Cruz said.

Powered by a four-stroke CG150 engine developed in Japan, the motorcycle uses push-rods—guaranteeing its toughness—instead of weaker timing chains.

It has an extra rigid frame, four super sturdy rear suspensions, thick forks, and tougher swing arms, rims and spokes.

The Kargador is now available at all K-Servico outlets in Luzon and at all Emcor stores in the Visayas and Mindanao.



THIS half-kilometer racetrack is a safe, accessible and affordable motor sport venue.

Be like Schumacher for a day at newest karting racetrack

By Charles E. Buban

FOR THOSE out there imagining themselves as Formula 1 champion driver Michael Schumacher, there's one place to begin trying and see if they indeed possess the talent to excel in motor sports racing.

Last week, Johnny Tan of Carmona Circuit Manila and Haydee Kwan of Boomland announced the opening of Kart Track, the newest karting racetrack in Metro Manila.

Open from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., Kart Track is located inside Boomland amusement park at the Cultural Center of the Philippines complex (near the intersection of Roxas Boulevard and Gil Puyat Avenue).

"The racetrack is open to the public even though Boomland has ended its current season," announced Kwan.

For growing enthusiasts

Anyone can have fun at Kart Trak.

"The circuit is challenging enough for everyone as one will learn how to negotiate around curves while trying not to hit any barriers or co-racers in the process," said Tan.

Tan said they set up Kart Trak to cater to a growing number of karting enthusiasts who have no access in karting events done in the country.

"And they don't have to belong to a racing outfit or shell out excessive amount of money to drive at Kart Trak," Tan assured.

"Even kids will surely enjoy this place as we also have cadet karts for children, as well as two-seater types where the rider can sit with an expert," he added.

Apart from regular karts for adults, Kart Trak also has more powerful race karts available for special races.

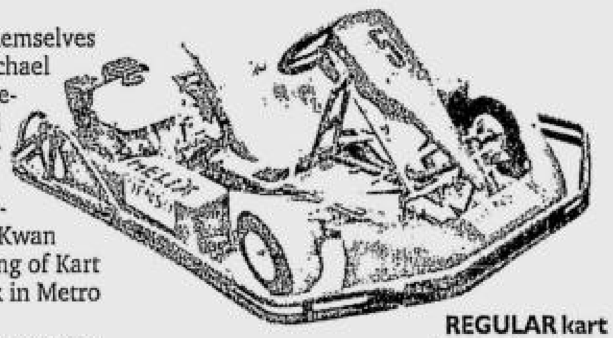
Just having fun

"This is a great way to discover the joys of karting in a safe, accessible and affordable motor sport venue," announced Jeanette Ipapo-Tuason of Tuason Racing School.

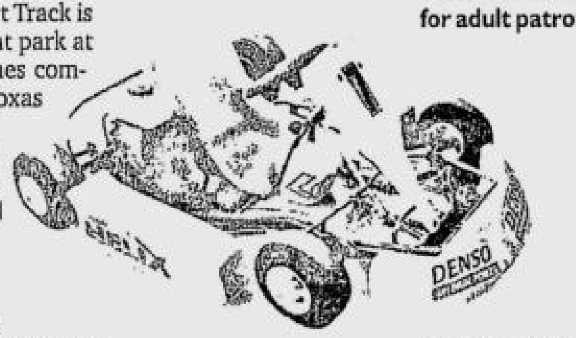
The half-kilometer racetrack will not only cater to regular customers.

In fact, Kart Trak has lined up a series of special events for the rest of the year, including a kart clubs' meet, a scooter racing series and other special races.

"We are also planning a regular race event for motoring media," assured Tan.

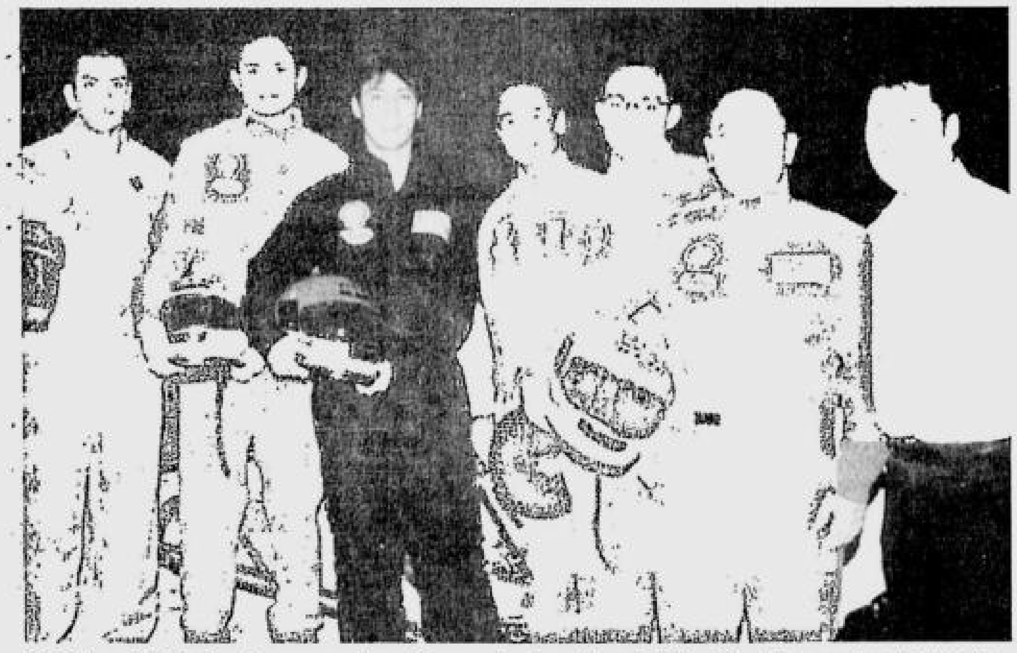


REGULAR kart for adult patrons



KART for kids

RARING TO GO. Wearing complete racing getup, karting enthusiasts enjoy a fun and safe ride on the circuit.



TAN, far right, joins the group of media people who attended Kart Track's opening last week.

Frontier top pickup for 3 straight years

A GRAND slam it is.

For the third consecutive year, the Nissan Frontier claims top honors as the country's best selling double cab compact pickup. The 2002 figures released by the Truck Manufacturers Association of the Philippines show an impressive 34.6 percent domination of the total pickup market for the brand, almost 14 percentage points ahead of the second placed competition.

Slight increase

The Frontier managed to gain a slight increase in market share from last year's performance with posted sales of 2,275 units, despite the general slowdown experienced by the economy and the introduction of new models from the competitors in the latter half of the year.

More impressive is the Frontier's gain in market share from 31.5 percent in 2001 to last year's 34.6 percent.

Creature comforts

This stellar achievement is proof of the consumers confidence in the performance, durability, style and high resale value of the Nissan Frontier.

And further attests that the Frontier's creature comforts such as full leather-clad interiors, woodgrain paneling, four-spoke steering, white meter gauges, automatic transmission and in-dash CD and remote are more than enough to satisfy the most discriminating of customers.

Radically redesigned

With a three-peat already in the bag, is a fourth title in sight? Very likely. In an aggressive move for early sales dominance, manufacturer Universal Motors Corp. has unveiled the radically redesigned Frontier 2003.

Sporting a bolder, industrial-inspired body, sedan-like cabin, all-new headlamps, a flashier front grille and tailgate, this latest incarnation of the Frontier appears more than ready to carry on the brand's No. 1 tradition.

The Nissan Frontier is available in 4x4 and 4x2 models, with automatic or manual transmission. Universal Motors is the exclusive assembler and distributor of the Nissan light commercial and recreational vehicles in the Philippines.

RPN AUTO EXTREME AUTO BYTES

Catch AUTO EXTREME every Saturday, 4 PM on RPN 9 and log on to www.autoextreme.tv

Each week, a viewer's question related to cars and motoring gets answered on Auto Extreme. You can get a hard copy every Thursday in the Motoring section of the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

Is it okay to port and polish the engine of a daily driven car?
—Janexon Cruz of Taytay, Rizal

PERHAPS the question should be, "Is it practical?" First, let's explain what it means to "port and polish." As you may know, the casting process involved in the production of cylinder heads leaves behind some rough areas inside the intake and exhaust ports. Considering the large quantities involved in the mass production of cars, manufacturers can only pay little, if any, attention to dressing the ports of the cylinder head after it has been cast. Basic cylinder head porting removes any casting imperfections and just by smoothing out the surfaces, you reduce restriction and let more air into the cylinders. With more air, you can add more fuel and that leads to increased horsepower.

Exactly how much extra power can you get out of your cylinder head through porting and polishing? If you're just talking about a 100 BHP engine, it won't amount to much, perhaps no more than an extra 5 BHP. But for a 300 HP engine, you can probably add as much as 10-5 BHP. The bigger the increase in the rate of air flow and exhaust gases, the more the potential of porting and polishing is realized.

Now, if we tackle the practicality of porting and polishing a daily driven car, keep in mind that this also leads to an increase in fuel consumption. And if most of the driving you do in the city means you travel one kilometer an hour through rush hour traffic, there wouldn't be much sense to it. Basic head porting is usually done for street high-performance, drag-racing or weekend racer applications.

Used vehicles wake-up call for auto assemblers, says auctioneers' group

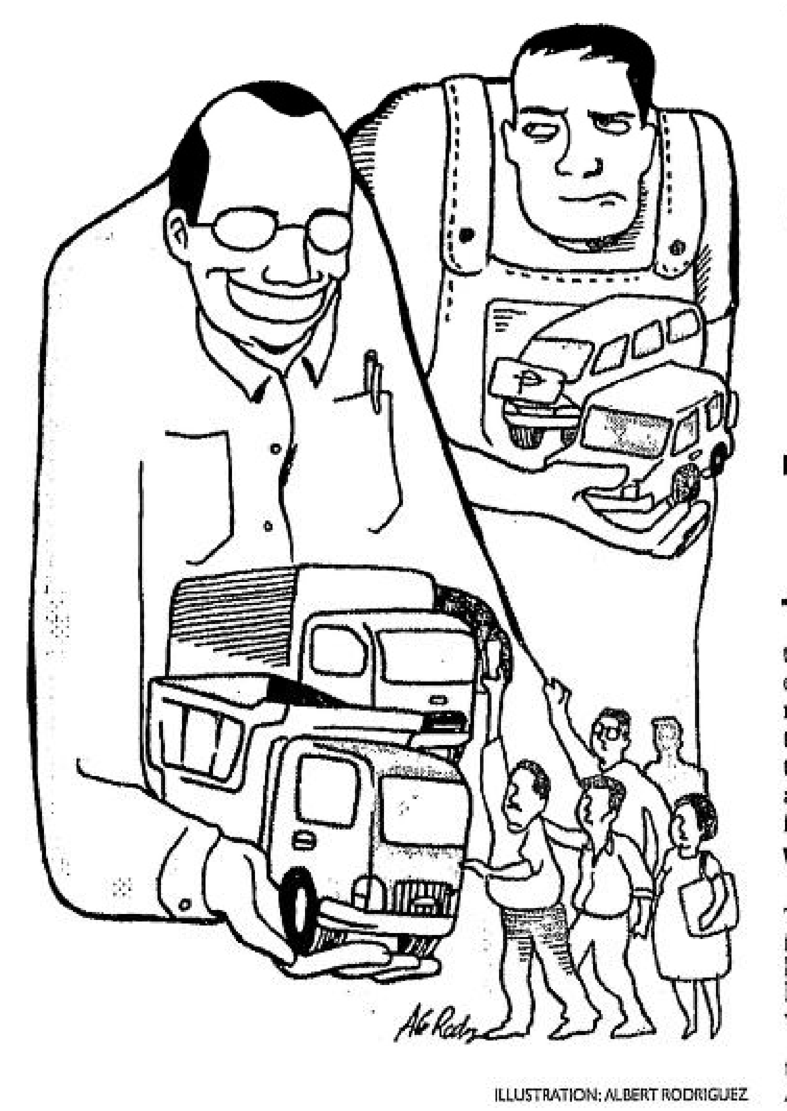


ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

By Tessa R. Salazar

AN OLD feud is revived in 2003: auto assemblers versus used-car auctioneers.

With the Asean Free Trade Agreement (Afta) in effect this year, auto assemblers expected to compete with their counterparts from neighboring Asean countries said recently that the Philippines can't possibly compete at the regional level because of used-vehicle auctioneers pestering them at the home front.

Wake-up call

Serves them right, say the auctioneers. Their merchandise serves as a wake-up call for auto assemblers whom they accuse of having enjoyed incentives for so long but haven't really been faithful to their covenant with the government.

Thus were the remarks of Romy Armamento, president of the Association of Philippine Auctioneers, when asked to react to auto assemblers' statement that used vehicles would lead to the downfall of the auto industry in competition with the regional mark et.

He countered that the government's Motor Vehicle Development Program, in place since the Marcos administration in the '70s, didn't really focus on auto manufacturers exporting brand-new vehicles as well as on partsmaking to encourage employment.

The vision of the MVDP was for the Philippines to ultimately develop and market its own motor vehicles.

"All of these were never realized. And you know the government's participant cost: billions of pesos," he said.

"The thing is our local parts makers (should have been developed)," he said.

True champions

Auctioneers believe they are still the true champions of the Filipino motoring mass.

Mass transport operators and bulk carriers stand to benefit most from the presence of used-vehicle importers. The recent liberalization of the importation of used 2.5-ton trucks means a wider scope of used trucks 2.5 and possibly up to the 6-tonners-would be allowed to be imported subject to an authority to import issued by the DTI.

Pot of gold

And perhaps this is the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow for used-vehicle importers. The importance of haulers to the Filipino way of life cannot be understated. Trucks deliver rice and other produce to 80 million Filipino people.

A used dump truck from an auctioneer costs P700,000, Armamento said. A truckload of sand, for example, costs P2,500.

"If one tries to use a brand-new dump truck, which costs about P7 million, how would the owner recoup his investment on P2,500 a day?"

Auctioneers have constantly stressed that they sell to people whose budgets are limited. "If you look at our buyers' profiles, we get clients like fish dealers, haulers, retired government officials, farmers, bank tellers and truck dealers," he said.

Much as local auto assemblers and used-vehicle importers would like to slug it out in the local auto arena, it seems evident these two fighters are standing in different boxing rings.

Honda's Doria to Toyota: Congratulations

FULL TANK

Al Mendoza

THE TAFT tragedy that killed an Ateneo law graduate last week is another proof of how tempers have taken control over reason. For, if the death of Jose Ramon Llamas was triggered by a word war arising from a traffic-related incident, it can then be assumed that beasts have become of us.

What a waste of life.

Traffic in this country has become as uncontrollable as rivers swelling during a typhoon. That has been a given before the arrival and even during the incumbency of Bayani Fernando as the country's traffic czar. We know the reason. We also know the solution. But alas, Fernando, for all his supposed feistiness in trying to solve the monster that has become of traffic in the metropolis, isn't and will never be up to the task. He can't command his men with the sternness of a true leader.

Don't you not see traffic enforcers not enforcing the law with consistency?

In fact, they don't enforce it at all. If you can't blame Fernando for this, whom will you blame? GMA?

* * *

Look around, observe how traffic men go about their duties, and you will know what I mean. They consistently turn a blind eye to drivers of public utility vehicles doing their thing in complete disregard of traffic signs:

1) They load in front of "No Loading" signs.

2) They unload in front of "No Unloading" signs.

3) They stop in front of "No Stopping Anytime" signs.

You want some more?

They load/unload passengers in the middle of the road.

Many bus drivers crowd *(ginigitgit)* cars, especially when they want either to load or unload passengers. Law-abiding motorists are literally reduced at the mercy of these road monsters.

While all these are happening, where are the supposed traffic enforcers?

Rarely do we see them. If we see them at all "doing" their job, they do it minus the will of a real law enforcer. Why? Because many of these so-called law enforcers receive grease money from bus drivers. Said grease money has the approval of most bus operators, who allot a budget for that in their plantilla.

For all his ineptness and anti-poor stance, Fernando now gets the top DPWH post.

C'mon, GMA, get real, will you?

* * *

Toyota has presented its entry in this year's Formula 1 season in France—the TF103. It has immediately elicited a round of ohs and ahs. The new model is an evolution of last season's TF102, and much lighter and generates more down force than its predecessor. It has a greater aerodynamic efficiency never before seen in any Toyota Formula 1 car, according to its designers, Gustav Brunner and Keizo Takahashi.

"We have made gains with this car in every area," said Brunner, the chief designer. "I hope that we have come up with a good compromise between building a fast car, but also a reliable one. That is the challenge in Formula 1."

The TF103 has a seven-speed gearbox.

* * *

The new Toyota entry has the RVX-03 for an engine. It is both lighter and more powerful than the 2002 RVX-02, and is designed by the world-famed Luca Marmorini.

"We have already tested the RVX-03 in the TF102B interim car and we have already a good feeling about the progress we've made," said Marmorini of his new baby. "The priority was to reduce the weight of the engine, but at the same time maintain the reliability of last season's RVX-02."

Some structural changes have taken place within the Cologne-based team, which is common practice in the postseason period in F1. The purpose of these changes is to increase the general efficiency of the team's operations as part of Toyota's corporate philosophy of continuous improvement.

This season, Toyota's Formula 1 drivers are Olivier Panis and Cristiano de Matta. More on them next week.

* * *

The following is a reaction of Honda's Arnel Doria to my column last week about Toyota's ascension to the top.

"Dear Don Alfonso:

"I would like to personally congratulate Toyota for a very good achievement in 2002. Although I am saddened to relinquish the top position in passenger car sales which was held by Honda in 1996-2001, I salute Toyota for coming out on top in 2002. Now, let the race begin for leadership in 2003.

"I am happy to note that the entire industry registered positive growth of 12 percent compared to the meager 76,668 units sold in 2002. Let us hope that this is the start of the industry's recovery that we have been praying for.

"On the other hand, sales of passenger cars continue to slide due to the lopsided excise taxation system that exempts luxurious 4x2 SUVs from paying tax while imposing a minimum 15 percent tax on middle-class 1.3-liter sedans.

"In 2001, passenger cars accounted for 31 percent of the total market. Last year, that share is down to 25 percent, the lowest since the inception of the motor vehicle development program.

"For us at Honda, the year has been very good. With 7,477 CRVs delivered to waiting customers, our total sales jumped 45 percent against 2001 sales figures.

"Our plant at Sta. Rosa was kept busy all year round and our plant associates are highly motivated by the strong demand for the CRV to work even harder.

"Honda management and labor force have closed ranks to conclude the CBA without 'letting a single drop of blood' and prepare for the new challenges in 2003.

"I would like to convey our deepest gratitude to the 13,594 customers who purchased Honda vehicles last year, and to people like you who have been instrumental in keeping us in touch with our customers. MARAMING SALAMAT."

* * *

QUOTE ME. In any debate over a traffic mess of any kind, nobody wins. So why give a fuss over a driver cutting your path?

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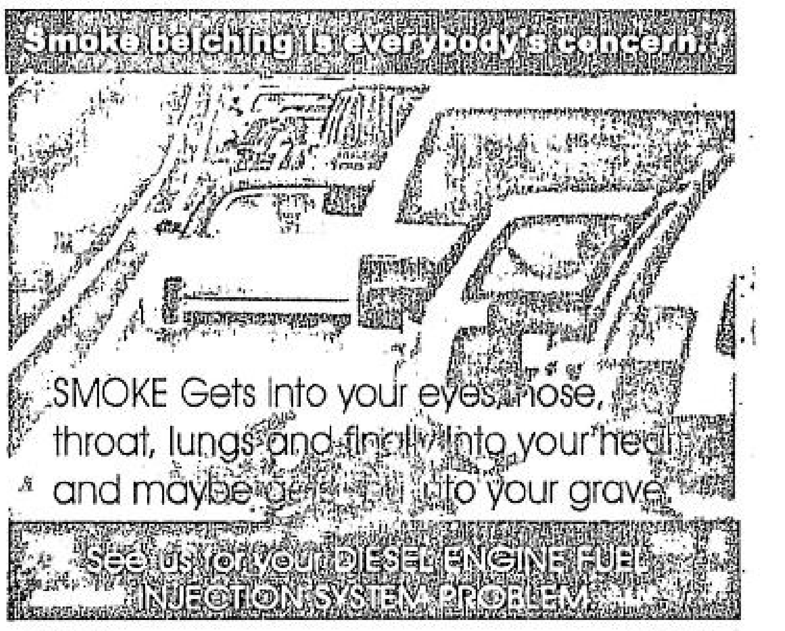
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ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

DURING the year-end holidays, Reuters news agency reported that with the Asean Free Trade Area (Afta)—Common Effective Preferential Tariff (CEPT) taking effect on Jan. 1, 2003, Honda Cars Philippines Inc. (HCPI) would discontinue production of the City, the Accord, the CR-V and the Civic this year and instead import them as CBUs (completely built units) from Thailand.

Asked to comment, HCPI officials immediately dismissed the news report as mere speculation. Honda Motor Co. Ltd.'s senior executives in Japan were on holiday, HCPI said, so this story could not have come from them. Although HCPI admitted that importing CBUs under the Afta was an option, its decision would depend on when and how the new excise tax law will be implemented, when and how the importation of used cars will be controlled and the final details of the revised Motor Vehicle Development Program, which is pending in Congress.

The rumor that HCPI will cease assembly flared up anew last Friday when Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority chair Felicito Payumo announced that HCPI was leasing 5,000 square meters within the Subic Bay Industrial Park to set up a warehouse/distribution hub. HCPI plans to import, store and trade brand-new Honda vehicles inside the Subic Freeport for domestic distribution, Payumo said.

Continued assembly

However, HCPI claims that it leased land in Subic for the future expansion of its CBU exchange program under Afta but it will continue assembly from CKD (completely knocked down) kits at its Sta. Rosa, Laguna plant. And yes, the all-new 2003 City and totally redesigned 2003 Accord will be assembled here.

Yet the question remains: with Afta lowering tariffs imposed on CBUs from 30 percent down to zero to 5 percent, will it still make sense for car companies to continue CKD operations in the Philippines mainly for the domestic market? Since we have the smallest car market in Southeast Asia with only 80,000 motor vehicle sales a year compared to Thailand's 400,000, Indonesia's 350,000 and Malaysia's 300,000, carmakers with production facilities in the Philippines will have to export to survive under the Afta regime.

But what will we export, given Thailand's predominance in the pickup market and Indonesia's leadership in AUV production? Next to the United States, Thailand is the biggest market in the world for one-ton pickup trucks. It was Indonesia that conceptualized the AUV, starting with the Toyota Kijang, and naturally, Indonesia is the biggest source and market of AUVs and AUV components. Exporting pickup trucks to Thailand or AUVs to Indonesia would be like bringing coal to Newcastle.

A niche in Afta

Ford Group Philippines CEO Henry Co thinks that the Philippines can carve out a niche for itself in Afta by focusing on the production and export of compact cars and compact SUVs. No wonder Ford Philippines stopped assembling the Ford Ranger pickup and now imports it from Thailand. Last year, Ford began assembling Escape compact SUVs and this year, Ford Philippines will export 14,000 units of the Escape and the Lynx compact car to Thailand and Indonesia. By producing for export, Ford is able to increase its production volume and achieve economies of scale to some degree.

Luckily for us, Malaysia, which manufactures its own brand of compact cars under the Proton aegis, will not participate in Afta until 2008. Mr. Co says that gives the Philippines a five-year window to tap the Asean market for compact cars and compact SUVs. But the government will have to come up with export incentives soonest to enable car manufacturers to push an export program aggressively, Mr. Co says.

Yet it's hard to imagine HCPI, for example, producing the new Honda City for export since Thailand has already preempted the Philippines in launching the 2003 model. In fact, Thailand is always first in the Asean region to come out with new vehicles and car buyers in the Philippines have to wait several months before some of the new models are made available here. In car industry development as well as in other indicators of progress, will the Philippines continue to lag forever?

* * *

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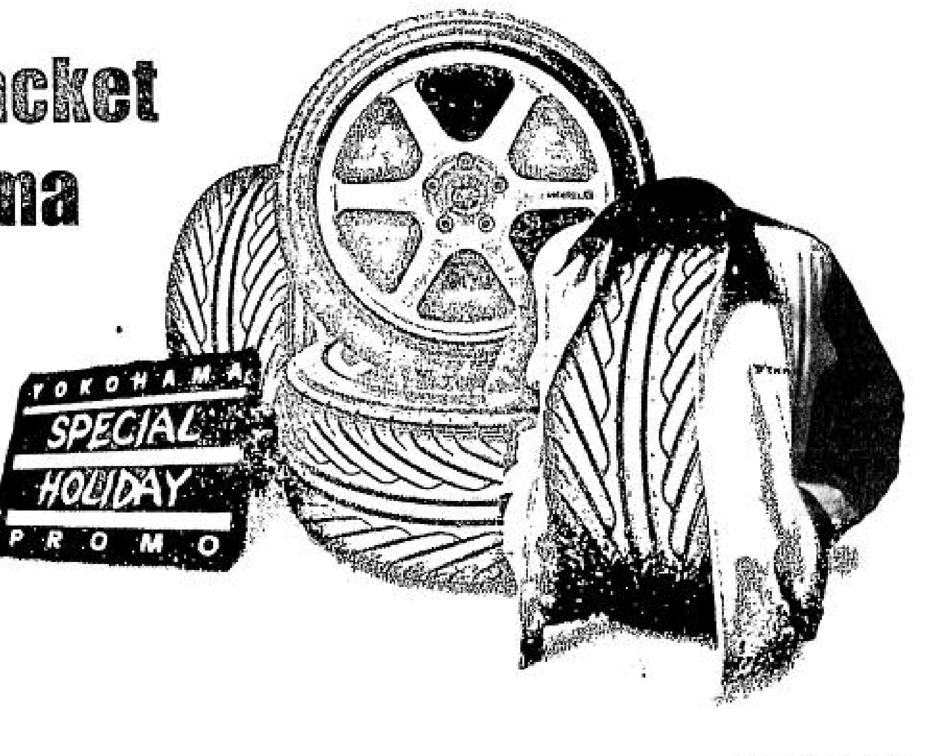

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Food paradise in garden city of Tagaytay

Text by Anne A. Jambora
Photos by Betoy Johnson

AFTER ONLY two months, word has spread like wild fire about this private food paradise in Tagaytay City, and most of it is good talk. In a country where restaurants are a dime a dozen, where trends, not sense, dictate the cuisine, Antonio's at Antonio's Farm in Barangay Neogan is like a breath of fresh air—literally and figuratively.

An hour-and-a-half drive from Metro Manila, the new kid on the block's growing clientele already includes some pretty impressive names. In fact, Antonio's is always fully booked, even on weekdays, such that many walk-in customers have to be turned away, especially since the place can only seat 50-60 people.

But why do people make the trip even if there's a chance of not being accommodated?

Behind a nondescript doorway accented only by a red frame lies a verdant place, much like a secret garden. The restaurant sits at the top of a 1.3-hectare farm, with all of Mother Nature's beauty as backdrop. Antonio's success formula is simple, really: great food and a serene ambience for a pleasurable, laidback dining experience.

Scurrying about, manning the kitchen, taking down orders and ensuring each guest's comfort is chef-owner Tony Boy Escalante. Although ably assisted by chef Ricky Sison and pastry chef Jay Garcia, the 36-year-old Escalante is a hands-on restaurateur. He personally tends his herbs and vegetable garden. He wakes up at 5:30 a.m. to source fresh produce in Tagaytay and neighboring wet markets. He

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Gulaman Delights: Jan 18 (Sat) 4 - 6 p.m. Cathedral Window, Fruity Chewy Salad, 24-hour Salad, Buko-Pandan, Almond Jelly with food styling presentation. P400

Bakery & Bakeshop: Jan. 25 (Sat) 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Commercial methods used in preparing breads, pies and cakes including costing, production batching with actual hands-on. P1,500

Japanese Cooking: Jan. 25 (Sat) 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Miso Soup, Mixed Tempura, Sukiyaki, Kamameshi; assorted Sushi: Kappamaki, Tekamaki, California Maki and Nigiri. P800

Pasta Class: Feb. 1 (Sat) 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Lasagna, Chicken Canneloni; assorted pasta dishes and sauces (Garlic Fettucini, Carbonara, Putanesca, Pesto and Negra). Bonus: homemade pasta making. P700

Brownies for Valentine's Day: Feb. 1 (Sat) 1:30 - 5 p.m. Chocolate Chunks, Date Nuts, Rocky Road, Chocolate Almond Cherry, Black Forest Cheesecake. Bonus: Valentine Chocolate Mousse Cake and Cookies. P700

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Baking I (Basic): Jan. 22-24 (W-F) 1:30 - 5 p.m. Techniques in preparing basic pie crust, different types of cakes, quick bread, yeast breads and more. P2,000

Cake Decoration: Jan. 25 & Feb. 1 (Sat) 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Lecture-workshop on fundamentals of cake decorating: coloring, designing, template, icing (boiled, butter, caramel, chocolate, sugar icing); basic borders, jelly lettering, basic flower making and bunching and motif. Free decorating tips. P2,000

Cooking I (Basic) For Messmen, Stewards and Beginners: Jan. 28-31 (T-F) 1:30 - 5:00 p.m. Basic food preparation, cooking methods for vegetables, pasta, meats and poultry dishes; Techniques of de-boning chicken and fish; Basic garnishing; Actual preparation of popular Filipino and Oriental dishes. P2,500

**For inquiries,
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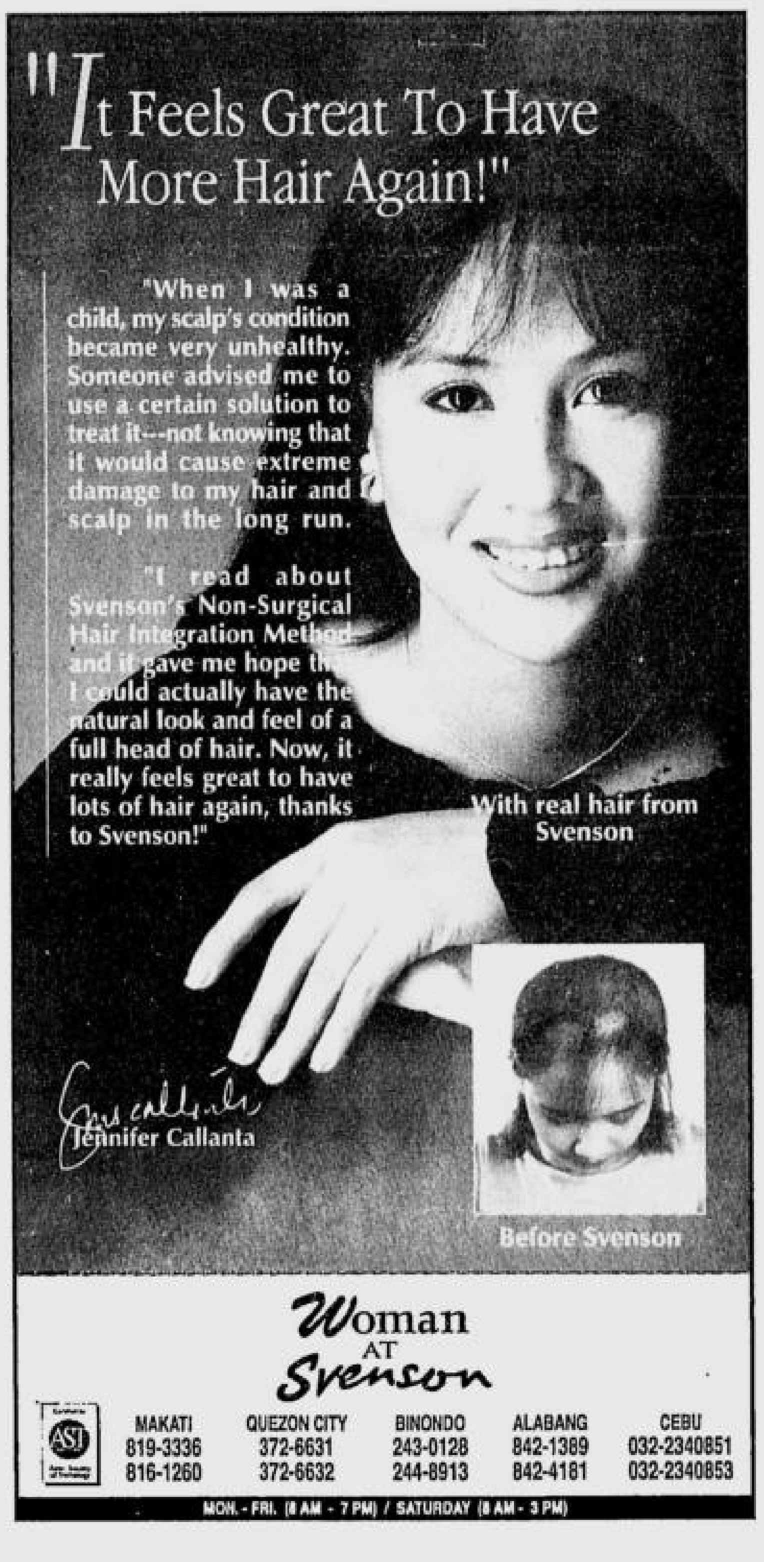
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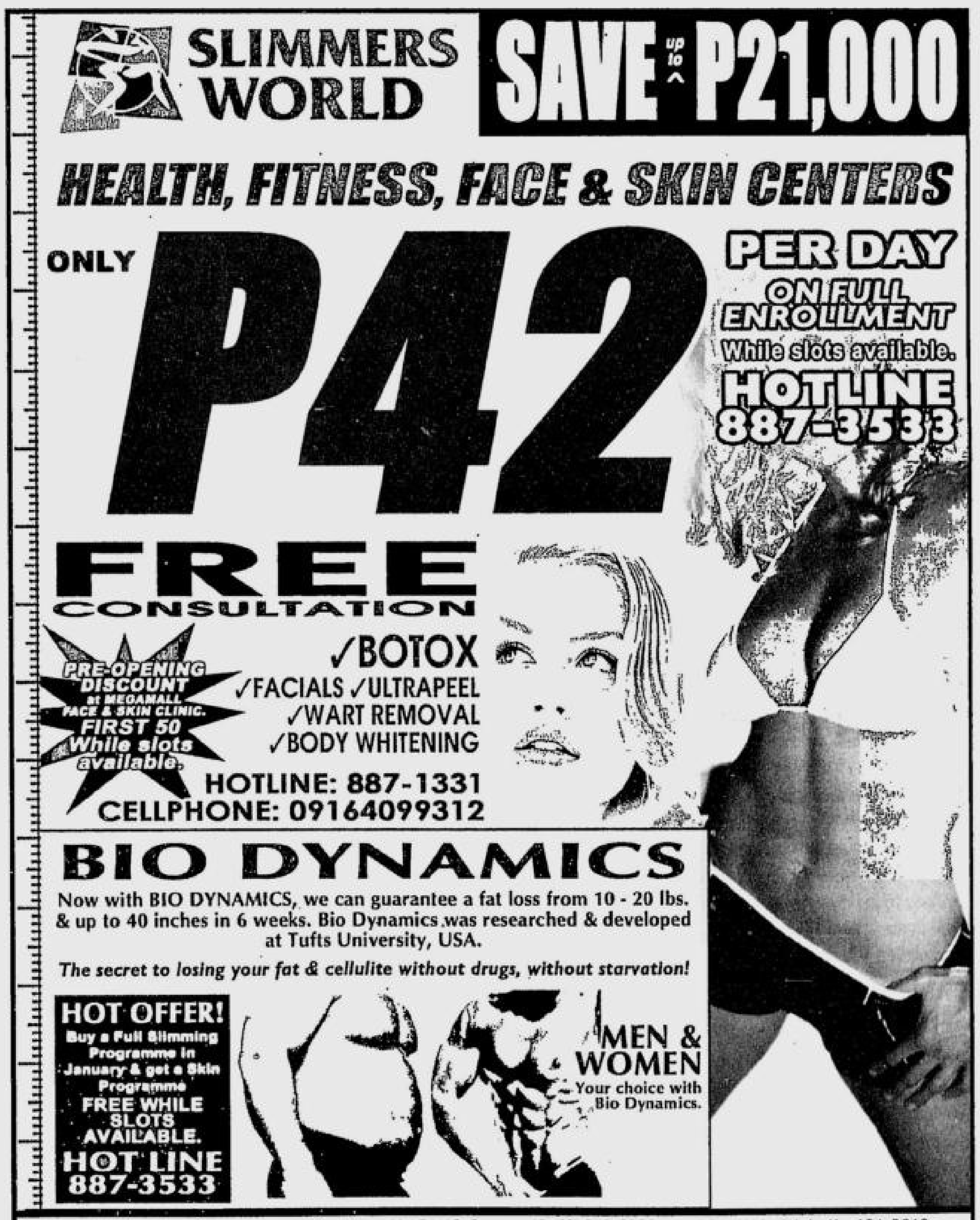
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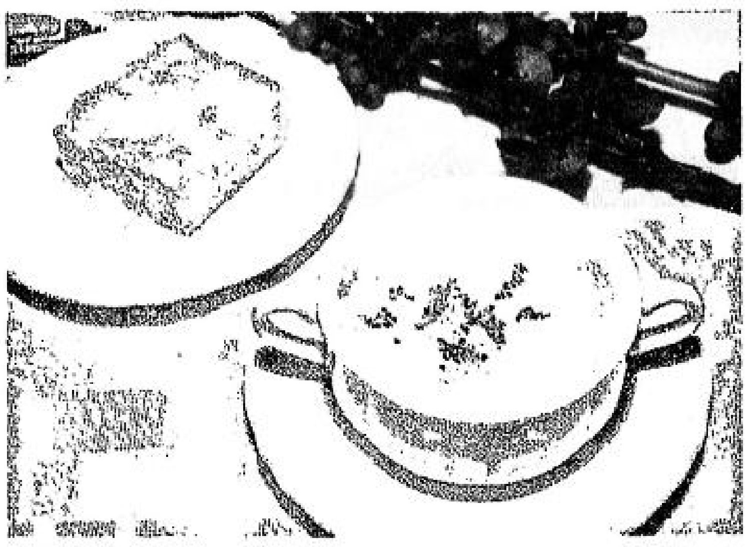


SPINACH soup with freshly baked herb focaccia bread and butter

CHOCOLATE souffle served a la minute

Food paradise in garden city of Tagaytay

FRESH salad from Antonio's garden served with bleu cheese tart, whipped brie, pan-seared duck liver and Parmesan flakes tossed in raspberry walnut dressing

From page C1

loves the wet market so much that even abroad, he goes straight to the market instead of the more favored shopping destinations.

Rustic charm

Everything at Antonio's is the result of Escalante's labor of love. He gets so animated as he tells stories about the place—from the food to the garden to the restaurant.

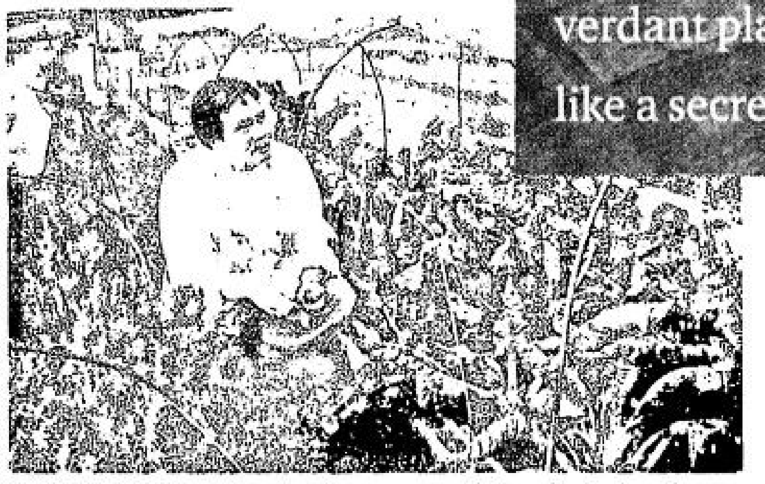
As one strolls down the garden with him, he points to his favorite herb, the rosemary, gently touching it with his fingers and softly saying, "Aren't they beautiful?," more to himself than anyone else. Escalante believes in serving everything fresh, which is why he doesn't accept advance orders over the phone (save for the Spannferckel) and why he goes to market every day.

His restaurant is proof of his taste for simple, charmingly rustic things in life. He began collecting old pieces of wood two years ago, coming primarily from small, old houses in the north. The staircase, for instance, came from an old house in Cagayan Valley, the doors, as well as some furniture, from another.

When Escalante built the restaurant, he asked architect-cousin Jessie Benedicto and good friend Boy Vicente to do away with the excavation and just simply follow the terrain. The result is nothing short of breathtaking. The place is an appropriate backdrop for an intimate get-together with friends to a romantic, candlelit dinner with a loved one and anything in-between.

Behind a nondescript doorway, accented only by a red frame, lies a verdant place, much like a secret garden

FROM THIS terrace, the verdant lush of Mother Nature makes the whole dining experience truly pleasurable.



OWNER-CHEF Tony Boy Escalante among his favorite herb and vegetable—rosemary and Swiss chard

With Escalante bent on promoting Tagaytay, the restaurant also serves as a showroom for paintings by local artist-friends and some furniture pieces that are for sale.

"I was never envious of people who opened restaurants in Metro Manila," Escalante says. Upon acquiring what was a coffee plantation five years ago, two of his men from Negros Occidental immediately started "cleaning up" the place. Escalante first worked on the garden, his other passion, starting out with one greenhouse and six plots. Shortly after, he pursued his gourmet cooking studies abroad, and apprenticed at The Tivoli for two years to enhance his skills.

Escalante is quick to admit, that he doesn't do Filipino dishes. "Maybe because they were mostly what we had when I was growing up, or maybe because we had cooks who did them very well. Anyway, I'd rather do something else," he says.

Soul food

The grill is where Antonio's excels, with such dishes as Herb Marinated Char-Grilled Australian Lamb Cutlets and Char-Grilled Rosemary Garlic Spring Chicken. A set menu consists of fresh salad from the garden, soup, choice of grilled main course, sidings and dessert. The siding is either pasta or vegan risotto. (A set meal for kids is also on the menu for people who come with children.)

The house specialty, Spannferckel, is boneless, stuffed suckling pig with herbs, fennel and potato served with sauerkraut, homemade apple sauce, horseradish cream and German mustard. The char-grilled, certified Angus beef rib-eye steak is grilled Argentinean churrasco style—over fire, not smoke—generously rubbed with the flavorful cardamom, the queen of spices (pepper is king). The fat is trimmed and spread evenly on top to allow it to melt and coat the meat for that sinfully delicious and juicy bite. The meat is dipped into the mildly hot chimmichuri sauce, which is made from scratch using fresh herbs, red-wine vinegar and extra virgin olive oil.

"My sauces enhance the meat, not overpower it. I want my food to be straightforward, not soaking in sauce or topped with too much garnish," Escalante says. He likes to call this soul food, when the meat tastes exactly the way nature intended it to—unpretentious and unadulterated.

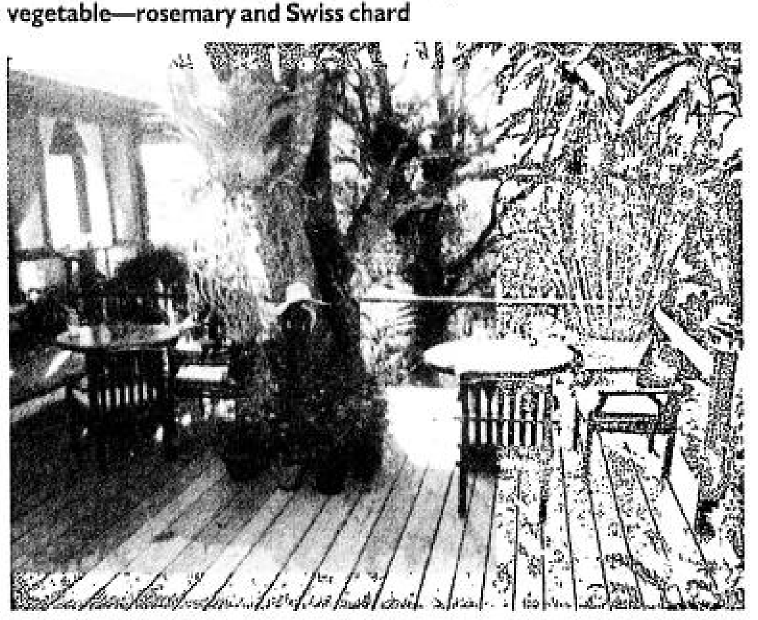
The trick, he believes, is when to stop adding the ingredients. Indeed, his Fresh Fish of the Day, the succulent Fillet of Lapu-lapu, has the natural sweetness of a fresh catch.

"I cook what I love to eat. I never scrimp on my ingredients. You just have to know how to use them properly so they won't spoil the flavor," he says.

It's like everything else in his restaurant—just perfect.

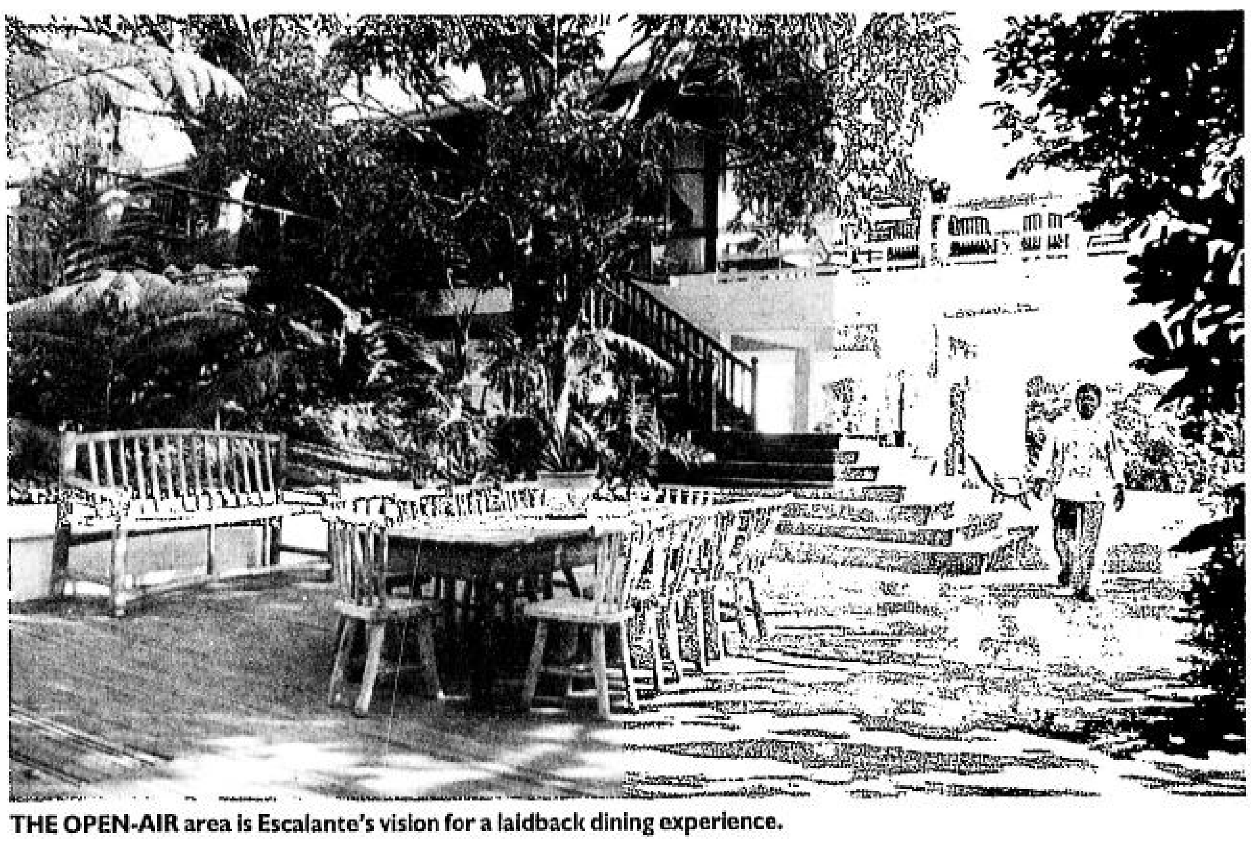
Antonio's is open on Tuesdays (dinner only) and on Wednesdays to Sundays for lunch (11:30 a.m.-3 p.m.) and dinner (5:30-9:30 p.m.). Strictly by reservation only. Call (0917) 899-2866 or (0917) 819-1022.

E-mail the author at ajambora@inquirer.com.ph



THE TERRACE is intended for guests who want an intimate and private meal.

THE LOVELY dining area greets guests upon entrance, an ideal place when eating out with a group.



THE OPEN-AIR area is Escalante's vision for a laidback dining experience.

Delayed refund and other consumer woes

THE CONSUMER

Marietta Velasco Giron

NOW that the holiday season is over, there's no more reason stores cannot attend to their obligations to customers regarding payment refunds or item replacements. But some stores seem to deliberately drag their feet. For example, we received this letter on Jan. 3 from an irate customer who claimed that he had been going back and forth to LBC to get the refund of a money order that never reached the recipient,

J Supetran <jps@iconex.net> complained: "We sent P3,000 on Dec. 2 to my grandmother in Kananga, Leyte, through the LBC Pesopak 24-hour service at its branch in Sta. Lucia East Mall (OR No. 2882492 with tracking number 128824928). We paid P420 for the delivery charges. The money was not received. My wife questioned LBC and was told that the money was not delivered because the recipient's address was not in their (LBC) coverage area.

"We asked for a refund and was told to come back Dec. 26. We followed up our request on Dec. 27, 31 and Jan. 2 and as of this writing (Jan. 3), we have yet to get the money. In the first place, why didn't they tell us outright that my grandmother's address was not in their coverage area? Moreover, why weren't we informed that the money was not received?"

We tried to get in touch with LBC but the people in charge were not available. We believe that LBC should return the couple's P3,000 plus the service fee they paid.

This is another complaint. A reader who is working abroad complained that the cellular phone she sent her sister was lost in the mail. Melissa P. <atienza@annamelissa.de> wrote: "Some months ago, I sent my sister in the Philippines a cellular phone. Unfortunately, the secretary who arranged the postal delivery failed to have it registered. Now the phone is lost. I had bad experiences with the local postal office years ago. I thought that the postal office now would have honest workers."

Money transfer woes

The holiday rush is not a valid reason bank workers would be short of patience and tact. Here's a complaint that proves some tactless workers need to be transferred away from customer desks. Mirabelle Ammalingan <Bll472@aol.com>, a US resident, complained: "I have been sending money to my aunt through Western Union, Farmer's-Cubao branch. On her behalf, I am writing this complaint about the inconsistent and officious conduct of some bank clerks, their manner of asking my aunt for more identification papers besides the official school ID she presented to them. My aunt observed that the clerks were not so strict with other customers. Be that as it may, we feel that the bank clerk had been rude to my aunt, considering that she was a customer."

We called customer service and sent a copy of the complaint to philwu@philcom.com.ph. Weng M. of Western Union-Makati office gave us a feedback that the clerks concerned are trying to recall the incident and will act promptly on the complaint.

Other consumer complaints

We received this follow-up complaint from Violeta P. Hughes-Davis, the shopper who related to us her previous experience with cashiers who do not give exact change to paying customers.

She wrote: "It happened to me again yesterday. The cashier at Waltermart grocery in Cavite said she did not have enough coins and shortchanged me 10 centavos. Two weeks ago, I wrote to you about these clerks who deprive customers of amounts ranging from 5 to 75 centavos. Can you imagine the number of customers, particularly this holiday season, who have been deprived of their due change?"

Davis has a good suggestion to supermarket and mall operators: "If the stores cannot provide their cashiers with sufficient coins, they should give them enough chits (or coupons) indicating the amount of change that they owe their customers. Chits can be exchanged later for hard cash."

From a PLDT subscriber: "Are the operators of PLDT information out on strike, too? The number was inaccessible the whole morning I tried to call. I do not have the latest PLDT telephone directory because when I tried to claim my copy last year, I was told there were no more available copies. There must be an efficient and convenient system to distribute directories to subscribers. Here's a tip to PLDT. Not all subscribers want the complete set of directories. I, for one, just need the numbers of residential subscribers. I can get numbers of business and government telephones by calling PLDT information."

Cellphone snatchers

Cellular phone snatchers are as aggressive as ever, and they strike anytime, anywhere. Here's the report of a witness. "A pedestrian in front of the INQUIRER building lost her phone to snatchers-on-bike at about 4 a.m. The snatchers had the gall to fire their gun when the bike stalled at a street crossing."

E-mail the author at mgiron@i-manila.com.ph

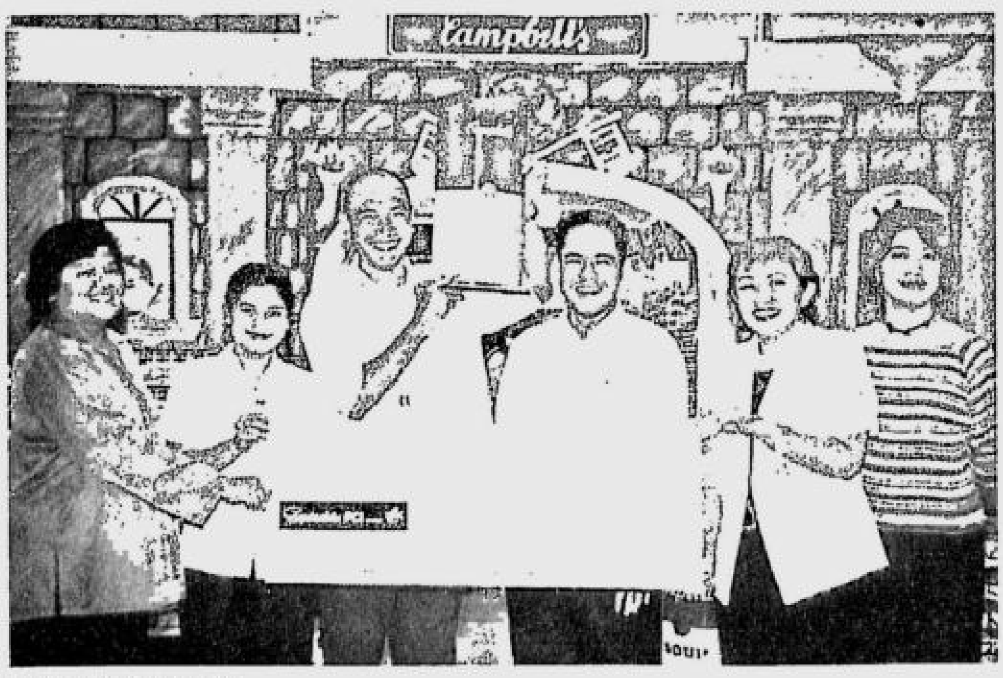
Fiorgelato

HOW SWEET IT IS
Fresh from their sweet success in the UAAP basketball championship, the Blue Eagles graced the grand opening recently of Fiorgelato—The Pure Italian Ice Cream on the 4/L Shangri-La Mall in Mandaluyong City. Shown are (back row, from left) LA Tenorio, Richie Alvarez, Badgie del Rosario, Sonny Tadeo, Enrico Villanueva, Andrew Gonzalez, Gec Chia; (front row) Cécille Cuna and Richie Cuna of Fiorgelato, product endorser Jo Orros, Tats Cruz, Lia Manuel, Mariel Garcia and Tonette Mendoza of franchisee Cuadro Foods.

FAZOLI'S • FAZOLI'S

THIRD BRANCH. Cutting the the ribbon to formally open Fazoli's SM Manila are (from left) Dave Kadel, group chair of development, Fazoli's USA; Jojo Marcelo, general manager of Real Fast Inc. (Fazoli's Philippines); guest of honor Manila Councilor Kim Atienza; and Shiela Rivera, operations manager. Fazoli's main attraction is its quick-casual concept, which wonderfully blends the warm ambiance of an Italian family restaurant and the speedy and efficient service of a fast-food restaurant.

SPEED AND SNACKS. Unwinding at the bar right after the press launch of Manila Speedzone, the Philippines' first leisure karting facility at 69 Marcos Highway, Cainta, are the partners of Designscope Architects, and Jan Derycklere, and Hans and Natalie Desmet of Belgium's Desmet group, the company responsible for bringing leisure karting here.



THEY SURE CAN
Campbell's Soup recently held a supermarket display contest participated in by supermarkets in Metro Manila and as far as Bulacan and Laguna. Participating supermarkets came up with their own display concepts making use of canned Campbell's Mushroom Soups. The board of judges, headed by Ramon Felix, country manager, Campbell's Soup Asia Ltd., and Von Hizon, managing director for International Brands, The Andresons Group, picked the most creative the entries. The grand prize of P100,000 and a trophy was awarded to South Supermarket Los Baños, Laguna branch, for its displays with "United Nations" and "Castle" themes. Shown are (from left) Marilen Forsuelo, Jennifer Espiritu, Richard Degala, Ramon Felix, Von Hizon and Millet Escasinas. South Supermarket-Valenzuela, Bulacan branch bagged the second prize while South Supermarket-Alabang branch placed third. The best shelf display award was given to Cherry Foodarama-Congressional branch for having the widest (6 meters) shelf display of Campbell's soup products.

TASTEMAKERS

If you're thinking of putting-up a food business,
it's best you train with the experts first.

Venture
Into
Entrepreneurship
IN THE FOOD INDUSTRY

A joint offering of the Center for Culinary Arts-Manila (CCA-Manila) and the Asian Institute of Management (AIM)

Your preparation to being your own boss

VIE is an innovative and unique six-month program specially designed for all those who want to be entrepreneurs. The course participant will be exposed to a virtual smorgasbord of business opportunities such as franchises, new products, new services, new ventures, subcontracting and a host of other possibilities from which they can make their choice. VIE is a program of self-assessment, evaluation of opportunities, and determination of "best fit" between the entrepreneurs and the business venture of their choice.

At the end of the course, the participants would have completed the enterprise plan of their proposed business venture, complete with market evaluation and entry strategies, financial projections and financing arrangements, and business registration requirements for implementing the enterprise. As a culminating activity, there will be a 3-day expo where participants will present prototypes of their product/s or enterprise. The expo aims to provide participants with an opporunity to experience the reality of producing and marketing their product or business in a simulated market setting.

Classes start Feb 17, 2003
Finish in 6 months

Fax this form to (632) 426-4836 and get a FREE Short Course from CCA-Manila!

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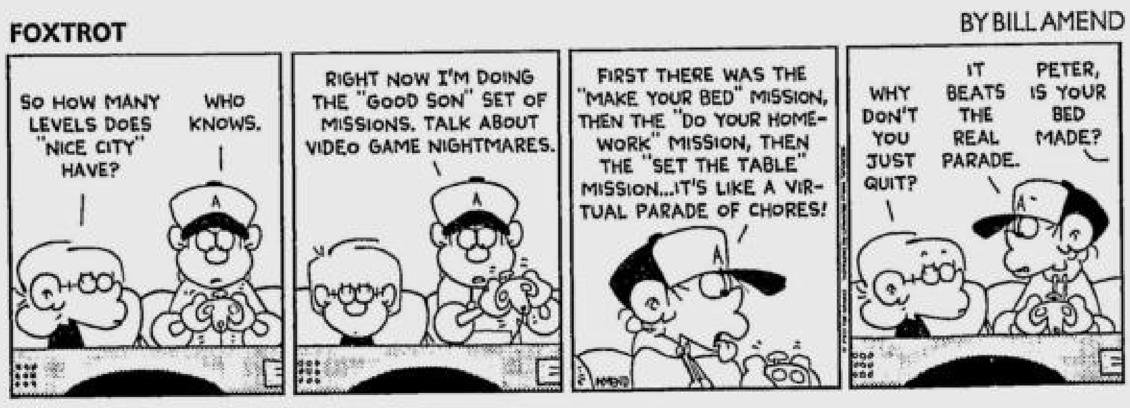
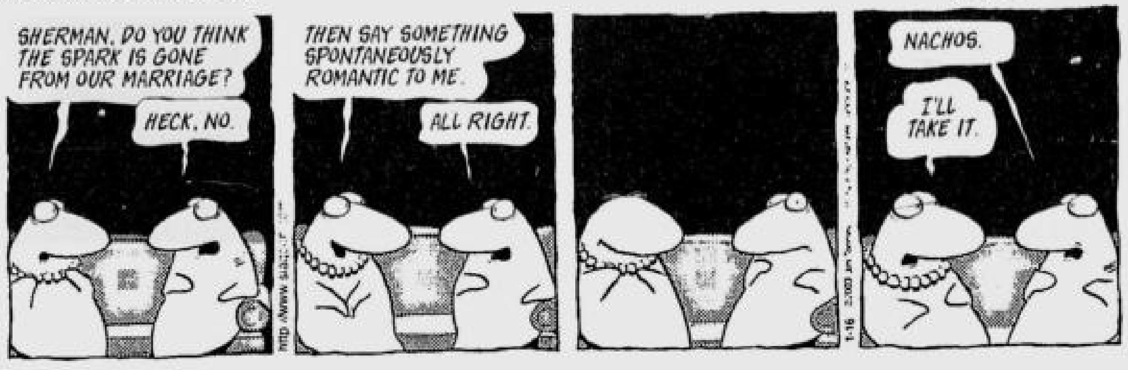
ACE Asian Center for Entrepreneurship
123 Paseo de Roxas, Legaspi Village, Makati City 1260
Ms. Luvy Villanueva / Ms. Lorna Balina
Program Manager

NAME ____________________
Address____________________
Tel No.__________ Fax No. __________ E-mail Address__________

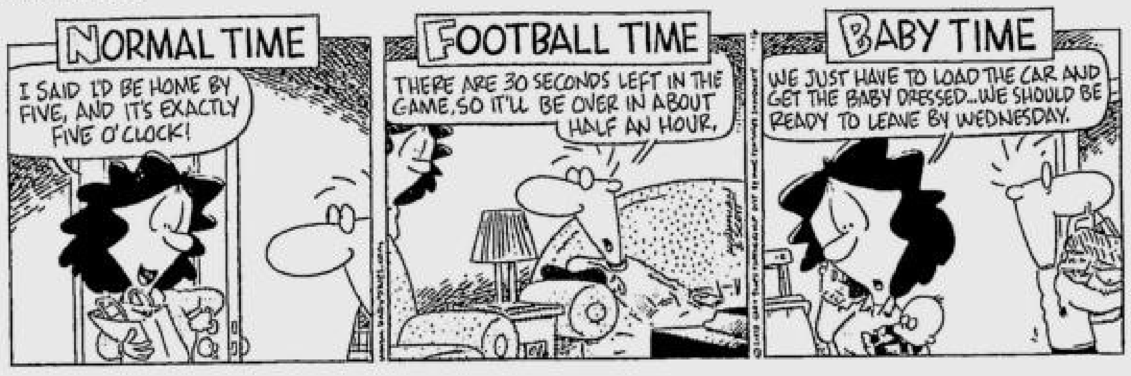
FOXTROT
BY BILL AMEND


SO HOW MANY LEVELS DOES "NICE CITY" HAVE?
WHO KNOWS.
RIGHT NOW I'M DOING THE "GOOD SON" SET OF MISSIONS. TALK ABOUT VIDEO GAME NIGHTMARES.
FIRST THERE WAS THE "MAKE YOUR BED" MISSION, THEN THE "DO YOUR HOMEWORK" MISSION, THEN THE "SET THE TABLE" MISSION...IT'S LIKE A VIRTUAL PARADE OF CHORES!
WHY DON'T YOU JUST QUIT?
IT BEATS THE REAL PARADE.
PETER, IS YOUR BED MADE?

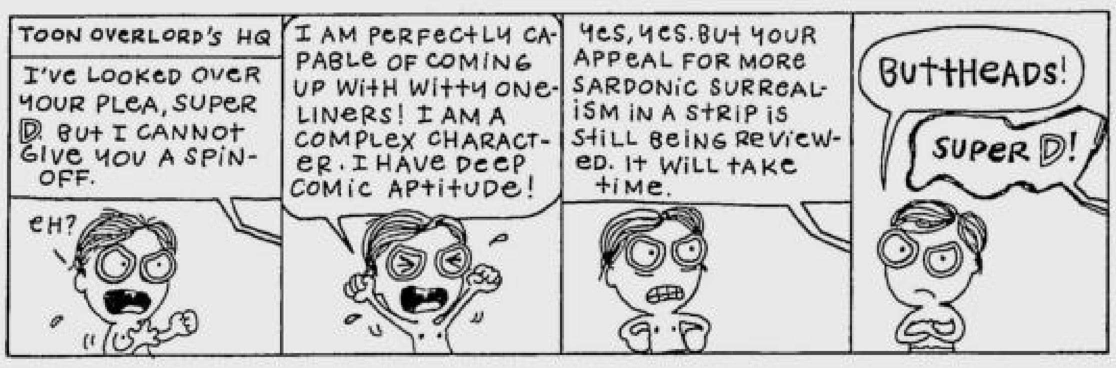
SHERMAN'S LAGOON
BY JIM TOOMEY


SHERMAN, DO YOU THINK THE SPARK IS GONE FROM OUR MARRIAGE?
HECK, NO.
THEN SAY SOMETHING SPONTANEOUSLY ROMANTIC TO ME.
ALL RIGHT.
NACHOS.
I'LL TAKE IT.

BABY BLUES
BY JERRY SCOTT


NORMAL TIME
I SAID I'D BE HOME BY FIVE, AND IT'S EXACTLY FIVE O'CLOCK!
FOOTBALL TIME
THERE ARE 30 SECONDS LEFT IN THE GAME, SO IT'LL BE OVER IN ABOUT HALF AN HOUR.
BABY TIME
WE JUST HAVE TO LOAD THE CAR AND GET THE BABY DRESSED...WE SHOULD BE READY TO LEAVE BY WEDNESDAY.

ATOMO AND WEBOY
BYLYRA GARCELLANO


TOON OVERLORD'S HQ
I'VE LOOKED OVER YOUR PLEA, SUPER D. BUT I CANNOT GIVE YOU A SPIN-OFF.
EH?
I AM PERFECTLY CAPABLE OF COMING UP WITH WITTY ONE-LINERS! I AM A COMPLEX CHARACTER. I HAVE DEEP COMIC APTITUDE!
YES, YES. BUT YOUR APPEAL FOR MORE SARDONIC SURREALISM IN A STRIP IS STILL BEING REVIEWED. IT WILL TAKE TIME.
BUTTHEADS!
SUPER D!

HOROSCOPE
BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jim Stafford, A.J. Foyt, Marilyn Horne, Ethel Merman
Happy Birthday: You'll have the staying power required to reach your goals this year, so don't let anyone tamper with your plans. Follow your own timetable if you want to receive the rewards you've been dreaming about. Your numbers are 10, 13, 27, 30, 43, 46

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You'll be ready to pick a fight if anyone looks at you the wrong way. Back off and spare yourself the grief of making a mistake that is likely to cost you dearly.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Be a good listener and you will gain respect. It may not be apparent today, but in the long run, you will discover that the more you do for others, the more you will get back in return.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Although opportunities to make financial gains are evident, you mustn't take on too much of a burden in the process. Don't let someone put pressure on you.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't let your sulkiness turn into a big production. You won't get the sympathy you expect if you try to make others feel guilty today. Be comforting, not judgmental or opinionated.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You will experience difficulties if you are working with others today. Be extra careful not to ruffle feathers or push others into doing things your way. Pitch in and do the best you can.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Financial gains can be yours if you are willing to push a little harder and invest in yourself for a change. Don't pay for other people's mistakes.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You may take things the wrong way today. Refrain from making statements that you'll regret later. Ask for help and guidance before making a decision.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You will get the cold shoulder if you have not been doing your share. Listen to the complaints of others and assure those around you that you will help out more.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): If you find yourself in a difficult financial position because you haven't been saving money, it's never too late to start. You can rid yourself of a stressful situation by setting up a strict budget.

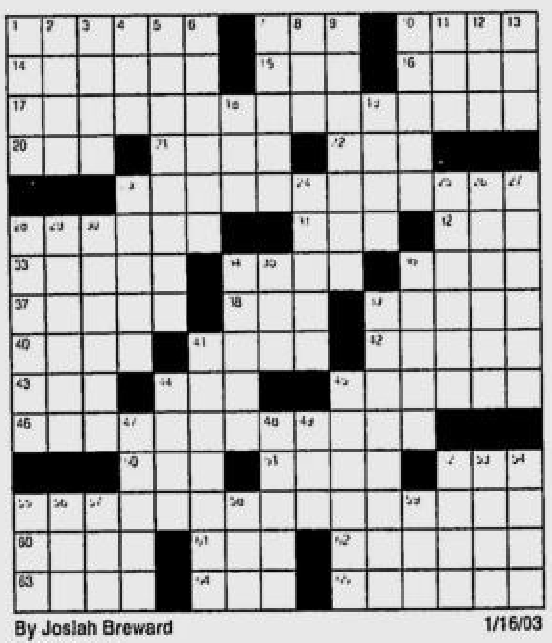
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't be too quick to judge, but don't let this person take advantage of you either. Take a look at your own motives before you discuss your future plans.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You may want to lay low today. Difficulties with the people you are dealing with may be disconcerting. You need to spend time sorting out your own life.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Check out the possibilities for the upcoming weekend. You should be making plans early so that you won't be disappointed. Don't try to mother the world.

Birthday Baby: You will be sensitive, caring and always there for others. You will make decisions based on all sides of any issue. You will help those less fortunate and you'll be highly re[illegible] for your kindness and generosity.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Josiah Breward
Scranton, PA
1/16/03

ACROSS
1 Shoe part
7 Lofting shot
10 Change: pref.
14 Katmandu language
15 Literary snippets
16 Tale on a grand scale
17 Song by 46A
20 Learning org.
21 Closing measure
22 Pharmaceutical watchdog grp.
23 1986 hit by 46A
28 Sense of taste
31 Napoleon's marshal
32 Wicked
33 Create a gorge
34 Camp beds
36 Farm enclosures
37 With 39A, leader of 46A
38 Abandon truth
39 See 37A
40 Burrows and Fortas
41 Cultivate
42 Spirit in "The Tempest"
43 Score of zero
44 Sat. follower
45 Takes an oath
46 1980s New Wave band
50 Gladiators' 56
51 Gudrun's victim
52 Mexicali Mrs.
55 Line from 17A
60 Hawks' former arena
61 High dudgeon
62 F in music?
63 One of a pride
64 "__ Poetica"
65 Rocks

DOWN
[illegible]
3 Pet prot. grp.
4 Menlo Park initials
5 Brought out
6 Flour of the southwest
7 H. Hamlin TV series
8 Sailors' grp.
9 Stymies
10 Bronze or aluminum
11 Center starter?
12 Burton or Curry
13 Sleeve card
18 Append
19 Duchin or Nelson
23 African dry gullies
24 Chip maker
25 Portugal's peninsula
26 Strikeout victim
27 Ford flops
28 Scholarly
[illegible]
[illegible] Apollo [illegible] member
34 Hold fast
35 OPEC product
36 Funeral piles
39 Superlatively
[illegible]
[illegible] Hindu deity
45 Unguents
47 Designer Calvin
48 Abhors
49 French summer
[illegible] bird
[illegible]
55 Costa del ___
56 French friend
57 6 on the phone
58 Sale-tag abbr.
59 Greek letter

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

M	A	G	I	■	C	E	R	T	■	W	O	M	A	N
A	D	A	M	■	L	E	E	R	■	A	R	U	B	A
Y	E	L	P	■	E	L	B	A	■	T	O	G	A	S
A	L	L	O	F	A	S	U	D	D	E	N	■	■	■
N	A	S	S	E	R	■	T	E	A	R	O	O	M	S
■	■	■	T	R	O	P	■	S	Y	L	■	P	A	C
O	A	H	U	■	F	O	C	■	■	O	S	T	I	A
S	P	U	R	O	F	T	H	E	M	O	M	E	N	T
C	A	N	E	R	■	■	S	E	A	■	O	D	E	S
A	C	T	■	A	L	P	■	E	R	I	K	■	■	■
R	E	S	T	C	U	R	E	■	C	R	E	A	M	S
■	■	■	O	U	T	O	F	T	H	E	B	L	U	E
S	N	A	R	L	■	A	L	A	E	■	O	L	L	A
A	O	R	T	A	■	M	A	R	R	■	M	I	L	L
T	R	U	E	R	■	S	T	E	S	■	B	E	S	S

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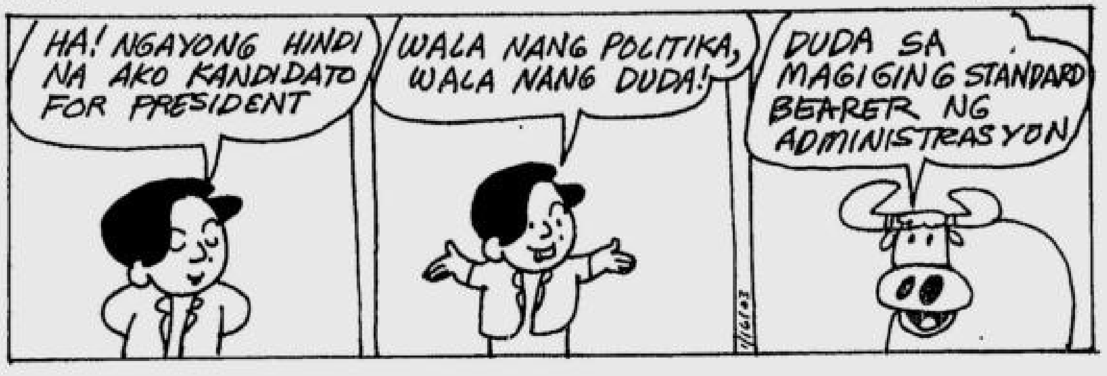
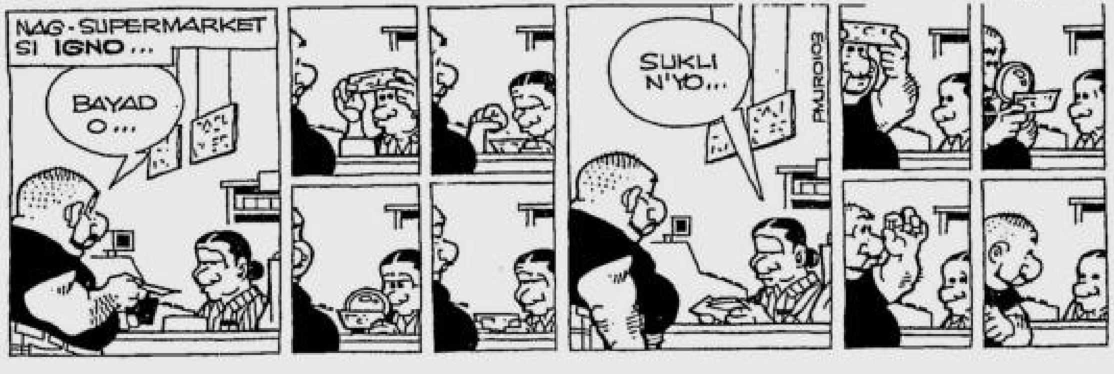
1/16/03

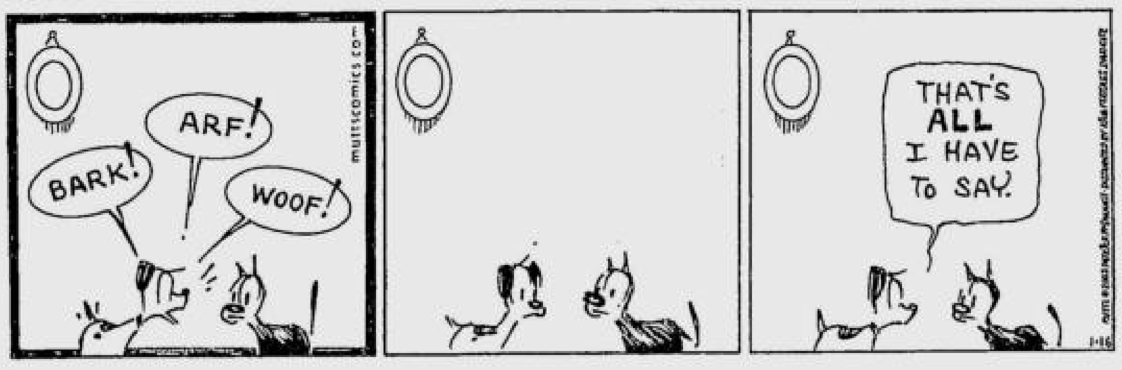
A. LIPIN
BY JESS ABRERA


HA! NGAYONG HINDI NA AKO KANDIDATO FOR PRESIDENT
WALA NANG POLITIKA, WALA NANG DUDA!
DUDA SA MAGIGING STANDARD BEARER NG ADMINISTRASYON
1/16/03

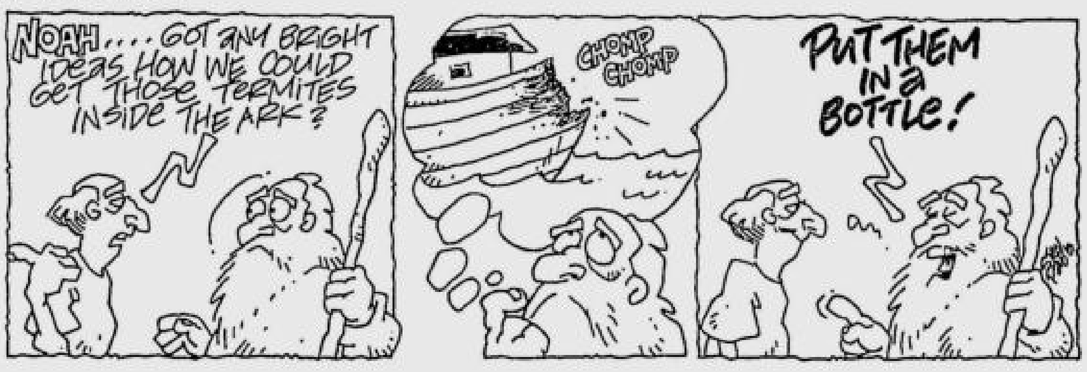
PUGAD BABOY
BY P.M. JUNIOR


NAG-SUPERMARKET SI IGNO...
BAYAD O...
SUKLI N'YO...
PMJR0103

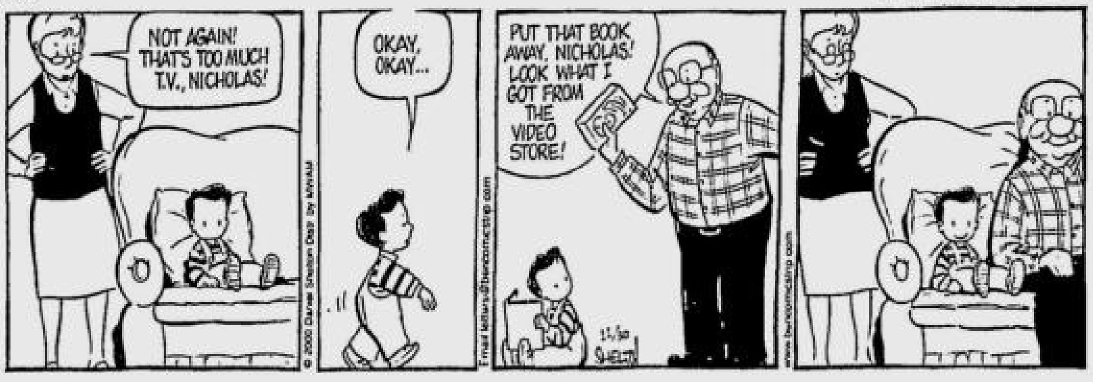
MUTTS
BY PATRICK McDONNELL


BARK!
ARF!
WOOF!
muttscomics.com
THAT'S ALL I HAVE TO SAY.
1-16

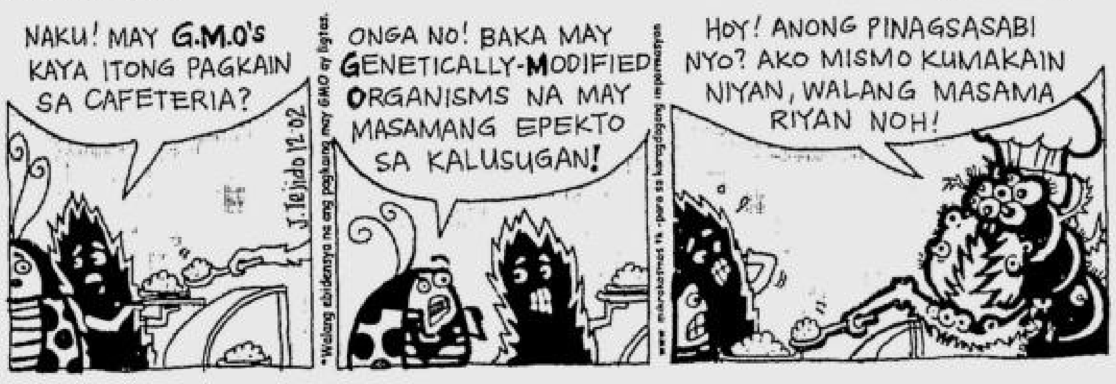
DIVINE COMEDY
BY STEVEN PABALINAS


NOAH.... GOT ANY BRIGHT IDEAS HOW WE COULD GET THOSE TERMITES INSIDE THE ARK?
CHOMP CHOMP
PUT THEM IN A BOTTLE!

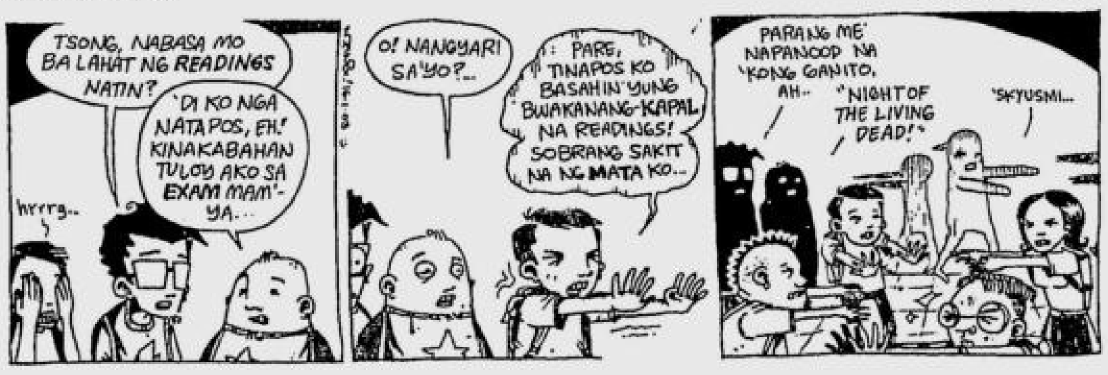
BEN
BY DANIEL SHELTON


NOT AGAIN! THAT'S TOO MUCH T.V., NICHOLAS!
OKAY, OKAY...
PUT THAT BOOK AWAY, NICHOLAS! LOOK WHAT I GOT FROM THE VIDEO STORE!

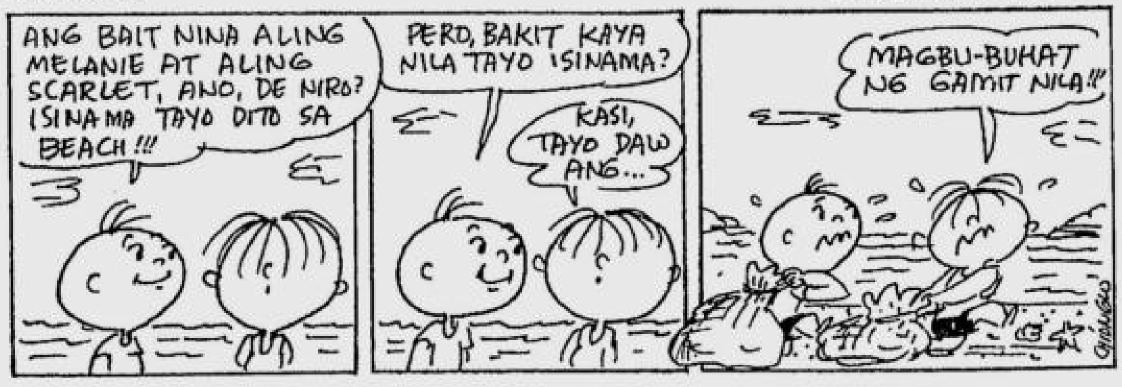
MIKROKOSMOS
BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


NAKU! MAY G.M.O's KAYA ITONG PAGKAIN SA CAFETERIA?
J. Tejido 12-02
ONGA NO! BAKA MAY GENETICALLY-MODIFIED ORGANISMS NA MAY MASAMANG EPEKTO SA KALUSUGAN!
HOY! ANONG PINAGSASABI NYO? AKO MISMO KUMAKAIN NIYAN, WALANG MASAMA RIYAN NOH!

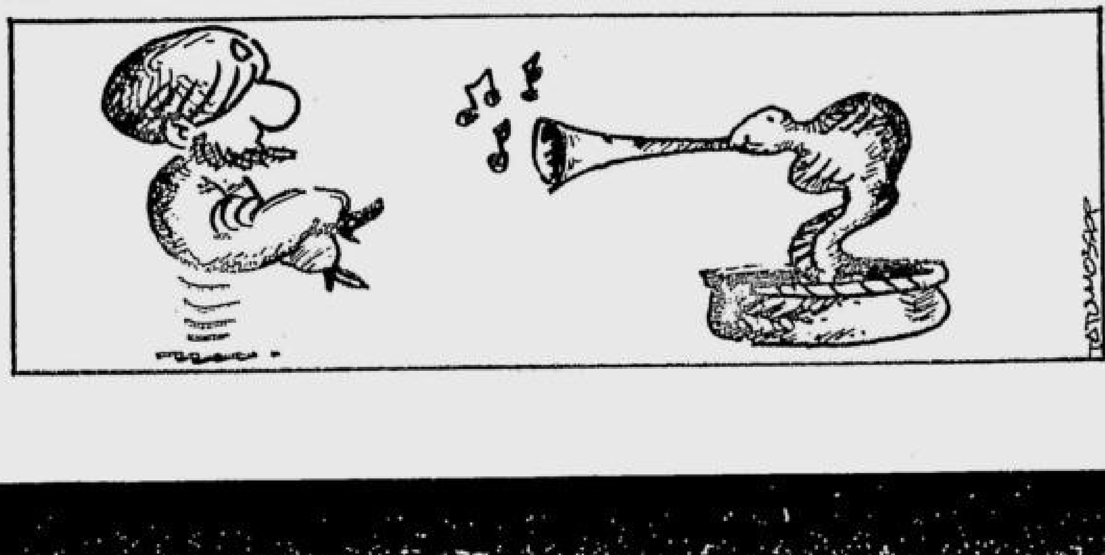
KIKO MACHINE
BY MANIX ABRERA


TSONG, NABASA MO BA LAHAT NG READINGS NATIN?
'DI KO NGA NATAPOS, EH! KINAKABAHAN TULOY AKO SA EXAM MAM'-YA...
hrrrg...
O! NANGYARI SA'YO?..
PARE, TINAPOS KO BASAHIN 'YUNG BWAKANANG-KAPAL NA READINGS! SOBRANG SAKIT NA NG MATA KO...
PARANG ME' NAPANOOD NA 'KONG GANITO.
AH..
"NIGHT OF THE LIVING DEAD!"
'SKYUSMI...

LOVEKNOTS
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


ANG BAIT NINA ALING MELANIE AT ALING SCARLET, ANO, DE NIRO? ISINAMA TAYO DITO SA BEACH!!!
PERO, BAKIT KAYA NILA TAYO ISINAMA?
KASI, TAYO DAW ANG...
MAGBU-BUHAT NG GAMIT NILA!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK
BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING



CHEF Nieves Ong of Via Mare

Chefs reveal one secret of their success

BEHIND the success of every restaurant are the chefs who whip up the dishes that create a loyal clientele.

In creating their masterpieces, chefs Nieves Ong of Via Mare, Martin Bracker of Nuvo and Dante Tayag of Piu Pazzo never compromise. Specifically, they use only the finest ingredients like Anchor Butter.

Ong says she uses Anchor Butter to bring out the natural essence and enticing aroma of Via Mare dishes. Butter is used in the restaurant's oyster bar and other seafood fare, probably one reason why Via Mare has been a favorite of seafood lovers since 1975.

Ong says even for catering jobs, Anchor Butter tops their list of ingredients because it is recognized as the world's best.

Bracker, who earned his culinary degree in Germany and has worked in various distinguished hotels and restaurants abroad, says butter is very important in making sauces.

One of Nuvo's popular dishes, for instance, the Norwegian Salmon Wrapped in Filo Pastry Green Asparagus and Orange Butter Sauce, uses Anchor Butter to give the dish extra zest and pizzazz.

Bracker explains that sauces are quite difficult to perfect without the right ingredients. He says he uses Anchor Butter to achieve the right taste, creaminess and texture.

One of Piu Pazzo's most popular pastas, Ravioli alla Contadina con Pomodoro In Bianco, a hearty serving of al dente pasta, is served with meat, Parma ham and a flavorful sauce made more delicious with Anchor Butter. Tayag's 20 years of experience has helped make Piu Pazzo, which means crazy in Italian, a big favorite with people who love pizza and pasta, especially with its superb sauces.

Tayag says he has always used Anchor Butter because it gives dishes a richer flavor, aroma and enticing look. He adds that Piu Pazzo favors Anchor because it is made from 100 percent cow's milk and has all-natural ingredients.

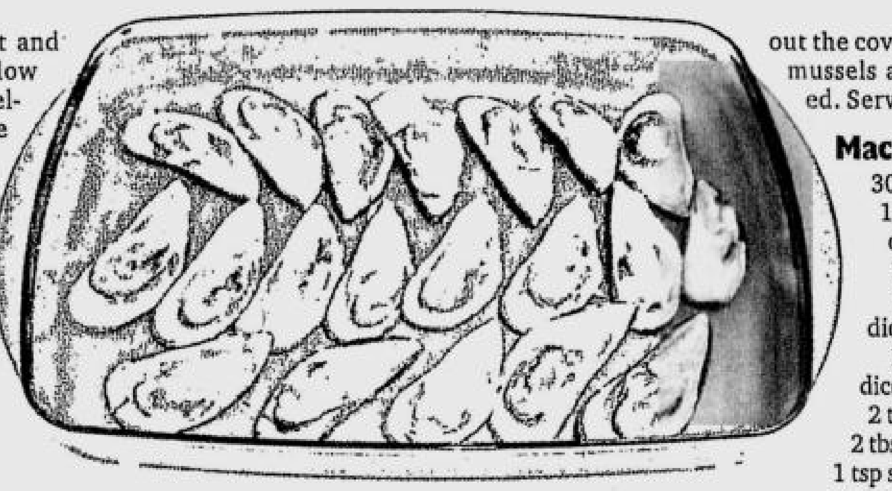
CHEF Dante Tayag of Piu Pazzo

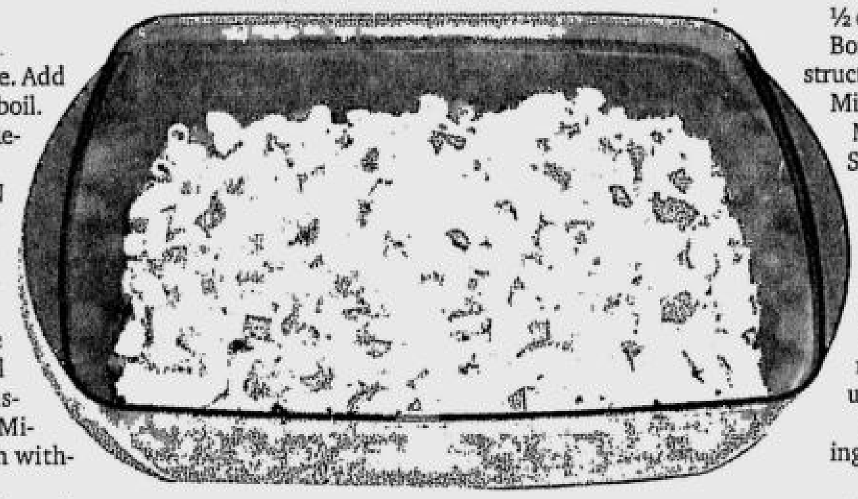
CHEF Martin Bracker of Nuvo

Fast and easy recipes for the busy host

TUPPERWARE has come up with fast and easy microwave recipes that will allow even the busiest host or hostess to welcome any guest in a most hospitable way.

Rock 'N Serve, Tupperware's latest innovation, offer versatile and durable microwave containers, each made to be used to freeze, reheat, serve and store.





Cheesy Tahong

1 kg *tahong*
3 c water
1 c grated cheese
100 g butter
1 tbsp minced garlic
1 tsp rock salt
1 tsp pepper

Boil water in 20 cm Elements Casserole. Add salt and mussels when water comes to a boil. Cook until all the mussels open. Drain. Remove the top shell. Set aside.

Put butter and garlic in Rock 'N Serve Round 800 ml. Microwave butter for two minutes until melted. Remove the Rock 'N Serve from the microwave and add pepper. Mix well.

Arrange mussels on Rock 'N Serve Rectangular Large Shallow. Spread the garlic butter mixture on the mussels and top with grated cheese. Microwave for only five minutes on high without the cover. Repeat the procedure until all mussels are cooked and cheese has melted. Serve hot.

Macaroni a la King

300 g macaroni
1 can Campbell's mushroom or chicken soup
1 medium-sized onion, chopped
1 medium-sized green bell pepper, diced
1 medium-sized red bell pepper, diced
2 tbsp mayonnaise
2 tbsp catsup
1 tsp salt
¼ tsp pepper
½ c water

Boil macaroni according to package instruction. Drain and wash in cold water.

Mix Campbell's soup and water.

Mix all ingredients together in Rock 'N Serve Rectangular Large Deep.

Set aside some grated cheese for topping.

Microwave at full power for five minutes. If hotter soup is desired, heat for another five minutes. Make sure there is an interval after reheating the product for five minutes.

Stir occasionally to ensure even heating.

Fiber gets better!
Did you know that
Inu-Fiber
can put your kids on the road to better growth & development?

Much have been discovered about the nutritional benefits of fibers. While a lot of have been reported and used for food fortification, not much consumers have learned that fiber has superior efficiency in increasing calcium absorption in the human body.

A rigorous research done by European food and nutrition experts have led to the discovery of **Inulin Fiber** - a breakthrough active ingredient now applied to consumer products on a global scale.

What is Inulin Fiber?

Inulin Fiber is a natural soluble fiber extracted from organically-grown vegetables and, therefore, not genetically modified. Experts rule out that this wonder fiber contain technological properties and surprising nutritional benefits.

They cite that **Inulin** is a dietary fiber not digested in the stomach or small intestine. However, because it is completely fermented in the colon, it contributes to a better gut function, improves regularity and reduces constipation.

Inulin is selectively fermented by Bifidobacteria, and helps boost the total number of these micro-organisms present in the colon. Bifidobacteria are known to have a number of beneficial effects on our health.

Because **Inulin Fiber** passes through the upper gastro-intestinal tract intact and is selectively fermented in the intestines, it causes a sensitive change of the microfloral composition of the colon.

Nutritional Benefits

Enriched **Inulin Fiber** (or Inu-Fiber) has three key nutritional benefits:

– It increases calcium absorption. This active ingredient supports the body growth of your kids by helping increase bone density and improving calcium uptake. It helps them build stronger bones for the rest of their lives.

– It stimulates good internal function. This active ingredient stimulates the growth of helpful bacteria that stimulates the good functioning of your kids. It is a well-deserved food with a built-in treasure of essentials your children need to build up their digestive resistance.

– It energizes the body and the mind. This active fiber really works for an energetic and balanced body functioning ensuring a healthy body going with a healthy mind.

In essence, **Inulin Fiber** helps to improve the bone mineral density, support a healthy gut and stimulates beneficial bacteria to the body.

Food Applications

Having confidence in the health benefits of **Inulin Fiber,** food manufacturers all over the world have begun to reap these benefits as a showcase of social responsibility.

Inulin Fiber is now used in a wide range of product categories such as spreads, biscuits, yogurts, bakery goods, dairy drinks, and processed meat products.

Health experts rule that a person needs to have an intake of 20 to 35 grams of fiber a day. According to a World Health Organization report, almost everyone in the world eats less than the recommended dietary allowance of fiber.

Most Asians do not traditionally include fiber-rich foods in the breakfast menu, while most Asian children have great cravings for rice and processed meats in their morning meals.

The Food and Nutrition Research Institute (FNRI) notes that a well-nourished child is healthy, strong, and alert, has good disposition, and grows at a normal rate. A poorly nourished child exhibits sluggish if not permanently delayed physical and mental development.

Experts recommend: Serve food with **Inulin Fiber** to your kids and put them on the roadmap to better growth and development.

Sweet treats to go

TIBOK-TIBOK

CASSAVA Cake

TAKE-HOME *kakanin* is now available at Cabalen, the restaurant famous for its all-you-can-eat native buffet. Sweet treats that can be ordered to-go as *pasalubong* include Maja Kalabasa, Ube Halaya, Tibok-Mais, Cassava Cake, Pitchi-Pitchi and Tibok-Tibok.

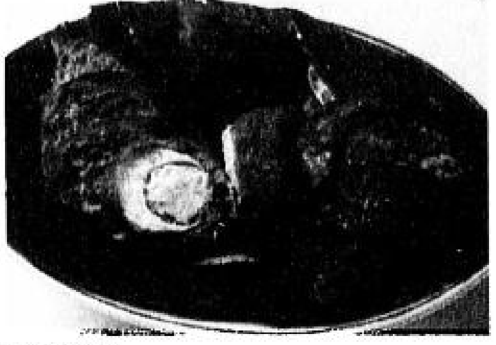
Cabalen now also has take-home specialties like Cabalen Rellenong Bangus and Cabalen Morcon, as well as bottled products like the Cabalen's famous Taba ng Talangka, Cabalen Bagoong (sweet and spicy), Cabalen Sweet Chili Sauce and Cabalen Burong Hipon.

The new *kakanin* special treats and over 50 more delightful dishes are available everyday for only P220 for adults and P95 for kids below four feet plus VAT.

Cabalen's *merienda* fare may be ordered through 912-2476 (look for Chat Manuel) and picked up at the nearest Cabalen Branch.

Cabalen also caters for all occasions and has function rooms for private affairs and corporate gathering. Special packages are available to suit every budget. Visit the Cabalen website at www.cabalenrestaurant.com or call 647-5088/4988.

Meanwhile, discounts at Cabalen Restaurant await Suki Card members with the recent tie-up of Cabalen Restaurant with Mercury Drug. Suki Card Members can enjoy a 10-percent discount at any Cabalen restaurant upon presenting their Suki Card. The promo is ongoing until Nov. 30.



MORCON

PITCHI-PITCHI

New casual dining places in Ayala

GLORIETTA 2 offers six spacious casual dining places for families and friends. The soon-to-open O'sake features new style Japanese cuisine, including a lot of Oshinagaki (tasty tidbits) to go with sake.

The Chinese tea house goes modern and more stylish in North Park. The Giligan's Island Restaurant and Bar offers set menus at affordable prices. Its specialties include the sizzling *sisig* and Giligan's Grilled Kebab Platter.

"W" The Big Grill has grilled steaks, seafood, fish, barbecue. Sandwiches and salads are also served.

Max's restaurant features traditional Filipino dishes aside from its famous chicken while Gerry's Grill has special *pulutan* like the Inihaw na Pusit, the Inihaw na Panga and the Inihaw na Blue Marlin Steak.

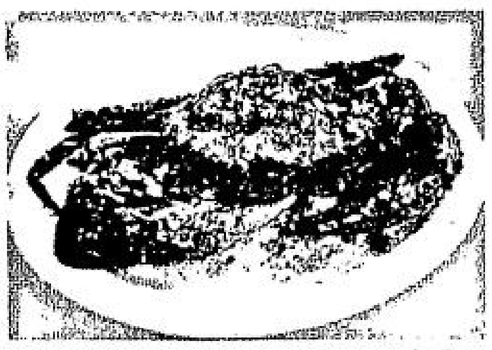
The Glorietta 2 Restaurants are at the Park Square Drive, Ayala Center, Makati City.

DINING OUT

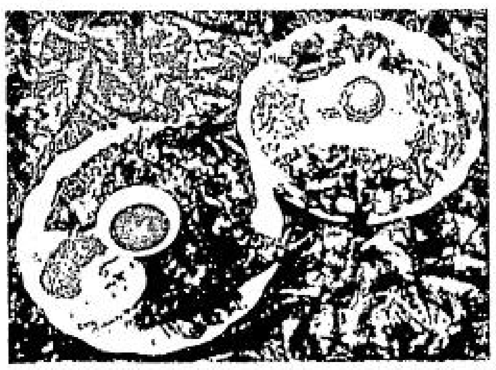
WESTLAKE offers authentic Hong Kong-style fried rice in seven varieties: seafood, beef brisket, salted fish, Hainanese chicken, barbecue beef, Yang Chow and West Lake's own recipe with Chinese chorizo, chicken and lettuce. West Lake kiosks are located at the Food Park of the Enterprise Center in Makati, Food Choices in Glorietta 4 and Alabang Town Center, and Cinema Square in Festival Supermall, Eastwood City, Libis, Quezon City. Call 634-2987 or 631-0183.

THE WESTIN Philippine Plaza welcomes the year of the Ram with an Oriental celebration at the China Sea restaurant, Jan. 20-Feb.1. Every single receipt of P4,000 entitles the diner to pick an Ang Pao from the Mandarin Tree for a chance to win complimentary overnight accommodations, free dinner for two and other gifts. Call 551-5555 local 1528.

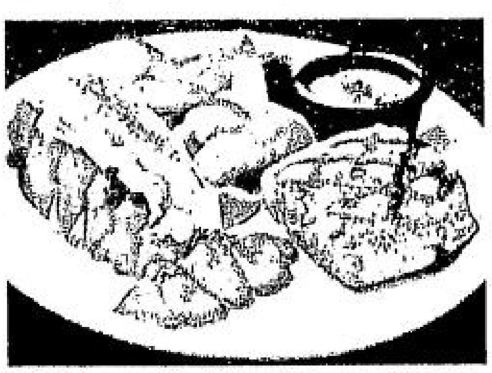
TRADERS Cafe offers the Mongolian barbecue or shabu-shabu again until end of March 2003. Call 523-7011 local 2402.



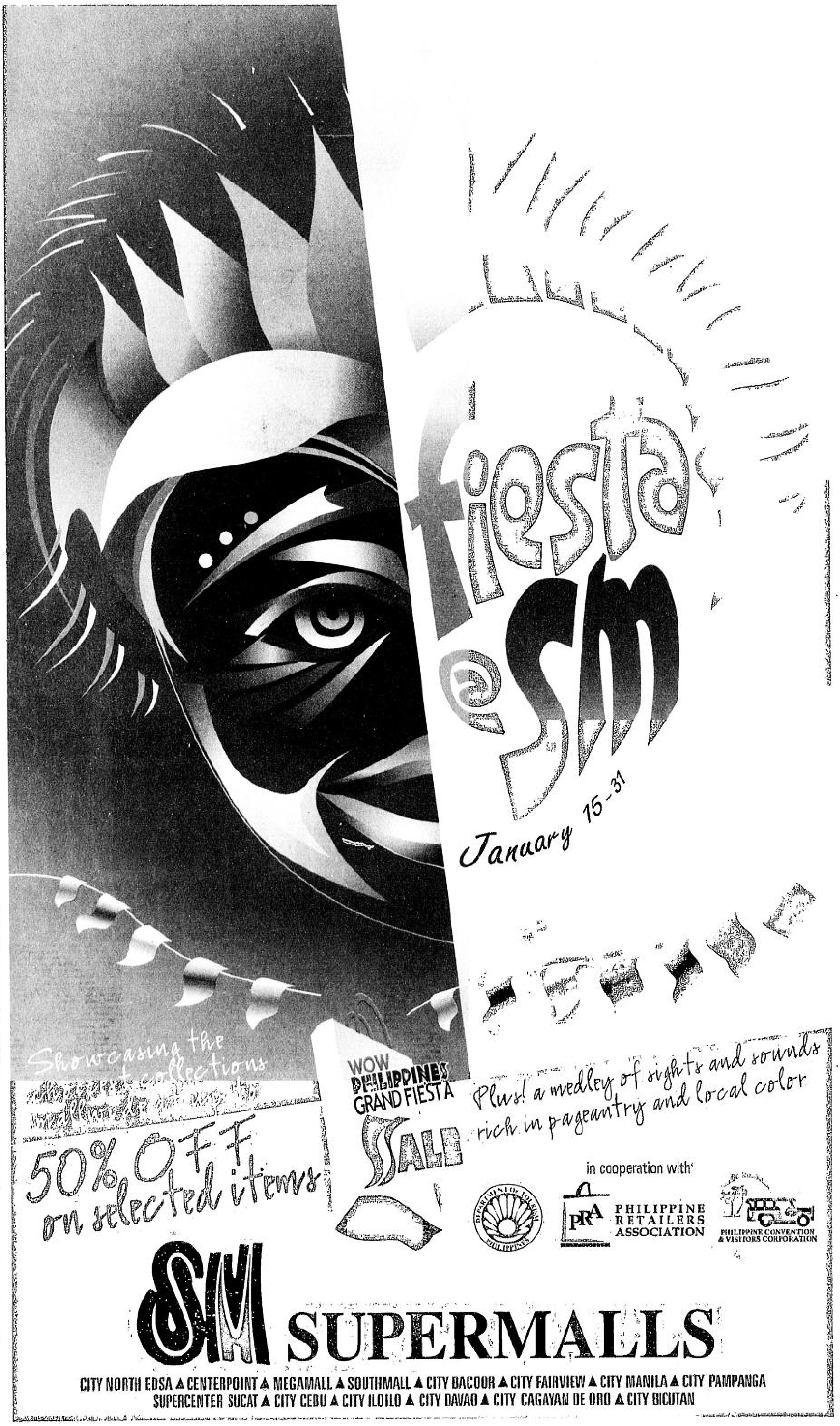
FIRE-ROASTED black peppercorn and crispy toasted garlic are sprinkled generously over delicious crabs cooked in olive oil, a bestseller at Tequila Joe's in El Pueblo Real de Manila at Ortigas Center.



FOREST GRILL's Amazon Platter and Grilled Panga ng Tuna marinated in special sauce. Forest Grill is at 12 Jupiter Street, Bel-Air Makati City. Call 896-5240; 897-7949.



TREAT yourself to Maine lobsters or Alaskan king crabs at Outback Restaurant. Served steamed, they come with with North Atlantic salmon or center-cut sirloin.
Lobsters and crabs are excellent sources of proteins, vitamins and minerals.
Outback Restaurant is at Glorietta 4, Makati City; Libis, Quezon City; and Alabang Town Center.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Kitchen blessings, or looking for grace in every grain

THE MORNING'S quiet after the frenzy of adjusting to a new January was interrupted by an insistent text tone. The Joyful Cook chuckled as she read out the message: "Gandang Umaga. May U B Blessed w/a Hot Choco LIFE, Pan de Amor, Sapin Saping Kaligayahan, Suman de Grasya at Putong Langit. Nawa'y Mabusog ka nito lahat!"

"It's a greeting from my sister-in-law, Mameng," she shared with Saint Sandok.

"Here comes another one! 'Hvng u as my frnd s a lucky break—sort of lyk getn an extra big serving of low fat whipd cream on a hot fudge sundae of my life only nicer… much nicer.' That's from my friend Myrna.

"Whipped cream must be top of mind. Listen to this next one from Gigi: 'UR an Xtra topin of low-cal whip cream on a 2X cappuccino. What a blessing!'

"Well, Sandok, guess you know what we're going to make right now," she announced while looking for home-roasted *barako* and arabica beans to grind and making sure there was double cream to whip.

Seat of grace

"The kitchen is often where blessings are given and received," he replied. "Let me share the words of a Christmas gift your mother's aunt, Cunching, received when Manuel Quezon was Commonwealth president in 1935. She kept it under glass in a wooden frame that hung near her kitchen at her old Lepanto Street house in Manila:

Recipe for a happy home

To 3 c of love and 2 c of understanding, add 4 tsp of courtesy and 2 tsp each of thoughtfulness and helpfulness. Sift together thoroughly, then stir in an equal amount of work and play. Add 3 tsp of responsibility. Season to taste with study and culture, then fold in a generous amount of worship. Place in a pan well-greased with security and lined with respect for personality. Sprinkle lightly with a sense of humor. Allow to set in an atmosphere of democratic planning and of mutual sharing. Bake in a moderate oven. When well done, remove and top with a thick coating of Christian teachings. Serve in a platter of friendliness garnished with smiles.

THE JOYFUL COOK

Felice Prudente Sta. Maria

Divine offerings

The connection between food and the divine exists all over the world.

"Cooks have sensed the wonders of locating nature's bounty and transforming the raw into the cooked, whether at a *tandoori* oven, a Filipino *tungko*, or a Japanese *hibachi*. At one Zen Buddhist monastery, grace at table ends with the lines: 'We… Are thankful for this meal, The work of many people, And the sharing of other forms of life,'" she added while measuring out enough beans for a cup.

"Other forms of life sacrifice themselves for us," reminded Saint Sandok. "It used to be that hunters and gatherers so appreciated the sense of sacrifice. They always uttered prayers of thanks to the spirit of the wild boar or anything that gave up its

KITCHEN/ D2

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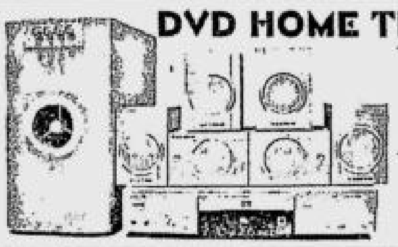

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Visit our showroom now to see our full range of Sub-Zero and Wolf top-of-the line kitchen equipments.

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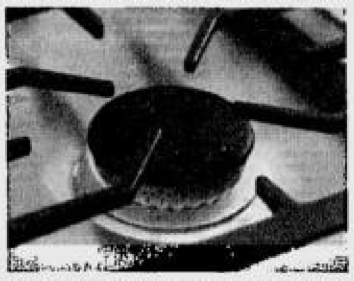
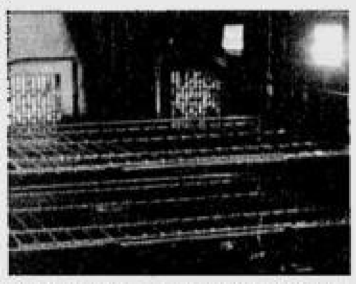
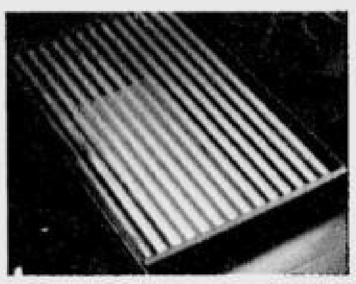


The Wolf dual stacked burner. Each burner has a True Simmer setting, delivering the minutest suggestion of a flame for melting or slow simmering.



Dual convection oven. Two fans and four heating elements give you precise control over eight cooking modes. Imagine: five sheets of cookies, identically golden. Roasts, gloriously browned with the juices sealed in.

No other cooktop is like Wolf's remarkable French Top that allows you to warm a dish over very low heat while another is boiling over very high heat. At the same time, on the same surface!



The infrared technology used by the broiler, grill and griddle distributes heat more evenly and efficiently for delicious consistent results.

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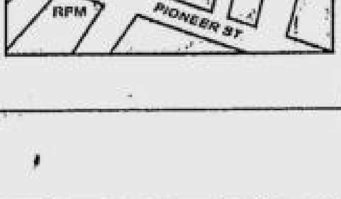
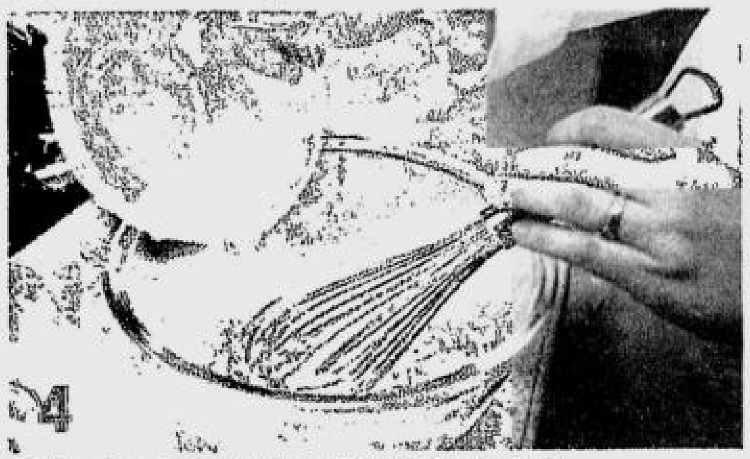
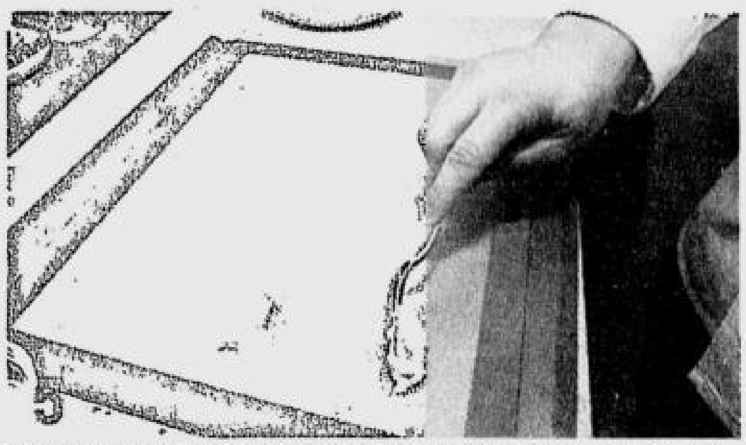
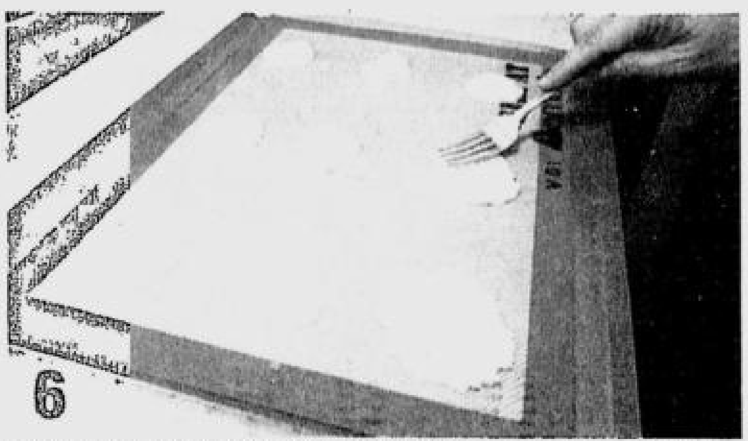




ADD melted butter until the mixture is blended well.



GREASE a baking sheet if you don't have a silicon sheet pan. Drop ½ tbsp of dough at a time onto the cookie sheet, allowing 4 inches between the pieces.



USING a fork dipped in cold water, push down each cookie gently to flatten, making it as thin as possible. Bake until light brown around the edges and pale in the center.

French delight

Text by Vangie Baga-Reyes
Photos by Johnny Villena

STEP BY STEP

FRENCH cookies have a delicate taste that makes them exceptionally delightful treats.

Tuiles aux amandes or almond tile cookies, in particular, are interestingly light and refreshing. *Tuile* (pronounced "tweel") is the French word for "tile." The cookies are usually served in gourmet coffee shops and are quite expensive.

The thin, crusty, "curled" cookies with slivers of almonds may look difficult to make, but they are actually relatively easy to do. It will also be cheaper if you make them yourself. One just has to follow the procedure strictly and carefully to create the thin and slightly bent cookies.

Tuiles aux amandes are often placed over a rounded object, usually a rolling pin, while still hot from the oven so they will curl. When they cool and harden, the cookies resemble curved roof tiles. The classic *tuile* is made with slivers of almonds but the cookie can also be flavored with orange, lemon or vanilla and mixed with other nuts, such as cashew, pecan, macadamia or hazel for added crunch.

French Baker's Johnlu Koa demonstrates the basic procedure for making *tuiles aux amandes*. After the cookies are removed from the oven, they should immediately be lifted off the sheet and draped over a rolling pin to form them into gentle curves. Be quick about it because the cookies have a tendency to harden very quickly. (If they harden before you've moved them to the rolling pin, return them to the oven to soften them up.)

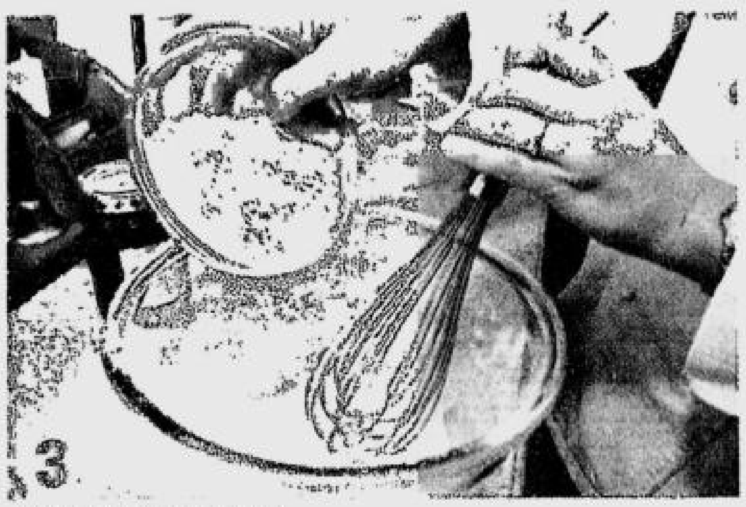
Let the cookies sit on the rolling pin for a minute or two.

If you don't get the shape right the first time, don't despair. The cookies will still be delicious even if misshapen. Let the cookies cool, then store them in an airtight container.

Koa says the cookies are perfect with a good cup of coffee or tea. They are also yummy with vanilla and strawberry ice cream.

Ingredients:
100 g refined sugar
60 g egg whites
1 tsp vanilla extract
16 g all-purpose flour
100 g sliced almonds, blanched
20 g Magnolia Gold Butter

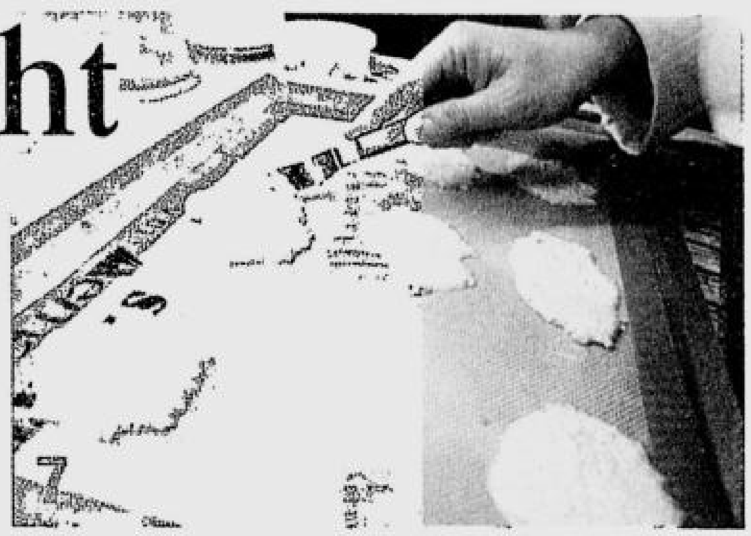
For suggestions, e-mail the author at vbaga@inquirer.com.ph



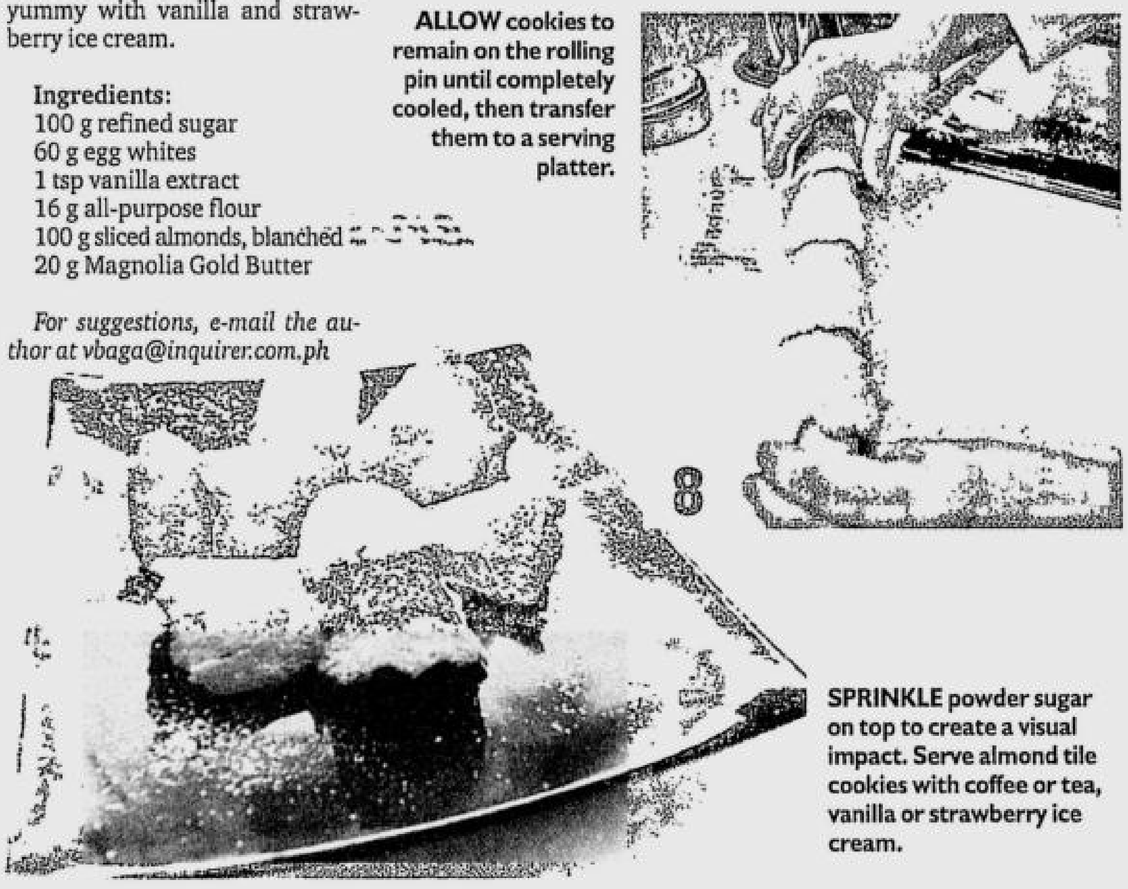
STIR in the sliced almonds.

IN A MIXING bowl, mix together the sugar, egg whites, vanilla extract and flour.

PREHEAT oven to 175°C. Melt the butter in a saucepan and cool. Sift the flour and set aside.



REMOVE the cookies from the baking sheet and immediately shape them around a rolling pin.



ALLOW cookies to remain on the rolling pin until completely cooled, then transfer them to a serving platter.

SPRINKLE powder sugar on top to create a visual impact. Serve almond tile cookies with coffee or tea, vanilla or strawberry ice cream.

Kitchen blessings, or looking for grace in every grain

From page D1

life so a person or a community could live. The sense of life, death, spirit and afterlife was vivid then. There was a keen reverence for cycles of life.

"Filipinos called the soul of each rice grain, *umayun*. One was expected to walk softly so as not to disturb the grain as it ripened or slept in storage," Sandok reminded her. "The veneration of *umayun* was so strong that early Christian missionaries did not contradict it in straightforward fashion. Instead, they preached that each cooked grain not eaten or wasted meant the careless diner would spend one extra day in purgatory. The rice was sacrificing itself that a mortal could live. Grace came from an appreciation of the life within each grain.

"Even a fisher and a fish vendor today have seen a grouper turn that whiter shade of pale as it is about to expire. The kitchen represents the sacrifice of one life for another. Cooks must get close to God when they sense sacrifice as offering," Sandok opined.

"Certainly, the simplest *kangkong* leaf gives its life for us," TJC replied. "In the first half of the 13th century, there was a Zen master named Eihei Dogen who wrote "Tenzo Kyokun" (Instructions to the Monastery Cook). A famous line from it says 'Handle even a single leaf of a green in such a way that it manifests the body of the Buddha.'"

Raising the spirit

"Dogen not only exhorted to value life in all its myriad forms, but to love the common, ordinary elements that make up each moment. Similarly, Saints Martha and Anne set examples of the grace in household chores," she continued. "I often feel that cooking is a prayer. It puts me in touch with the divine, with a sense of the universe. There is great tranquility each time I uncover the clay pot and smell the mingling aromas of five spices, soy and rice wine when slow-simmering a duck tim. I'm amazed at the balance of flavors, the skill creating balance, the inspiration that seeks to turn simple ingredients into a celebration of life—which is what each mealtime is for me.

"Dogen repeatedly counseled that a cook must never complain when poor materials find their way into the kitchen. Poor materials are no excuse for careless attention to them, or a diminishing of standards, he said. By applying the same degree of effort no matter what the ingredients, a cook manifests the enlightened quality of 'magnanimous mind.' That magnanimity is grace, a sanctification by the intent to prepare with one's heart and soul all that emerges from the kitchen," TJC explained.

The need for a new year of peace, what with the threat of global war in the air, had obviously touched the Cook.

"Every new year offers opportunity for grace to find its way into our life. With it our sense of reality expands. We find miracles in luck and the unexpected. We find the divine in every grain and gram that gives itself as sustenance. And each time we recognize the divinity, that, too, is grace in the kitchen," TJC thought as she sifted confectioner's sugar to sweeten cream whipping in the Kitchen Aid.

"The kitchen is indeed a source of wisdom and grace a way of being," Saint Sandok concluded as he remembered that he had made a New Year's resolution to keep his halo straight and polished.

Next: Saint Sandok recalls his travels in the 19th century

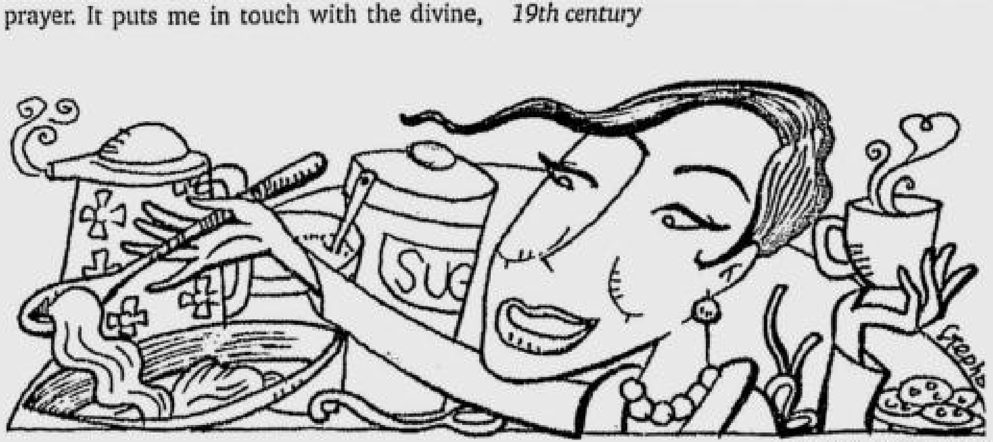
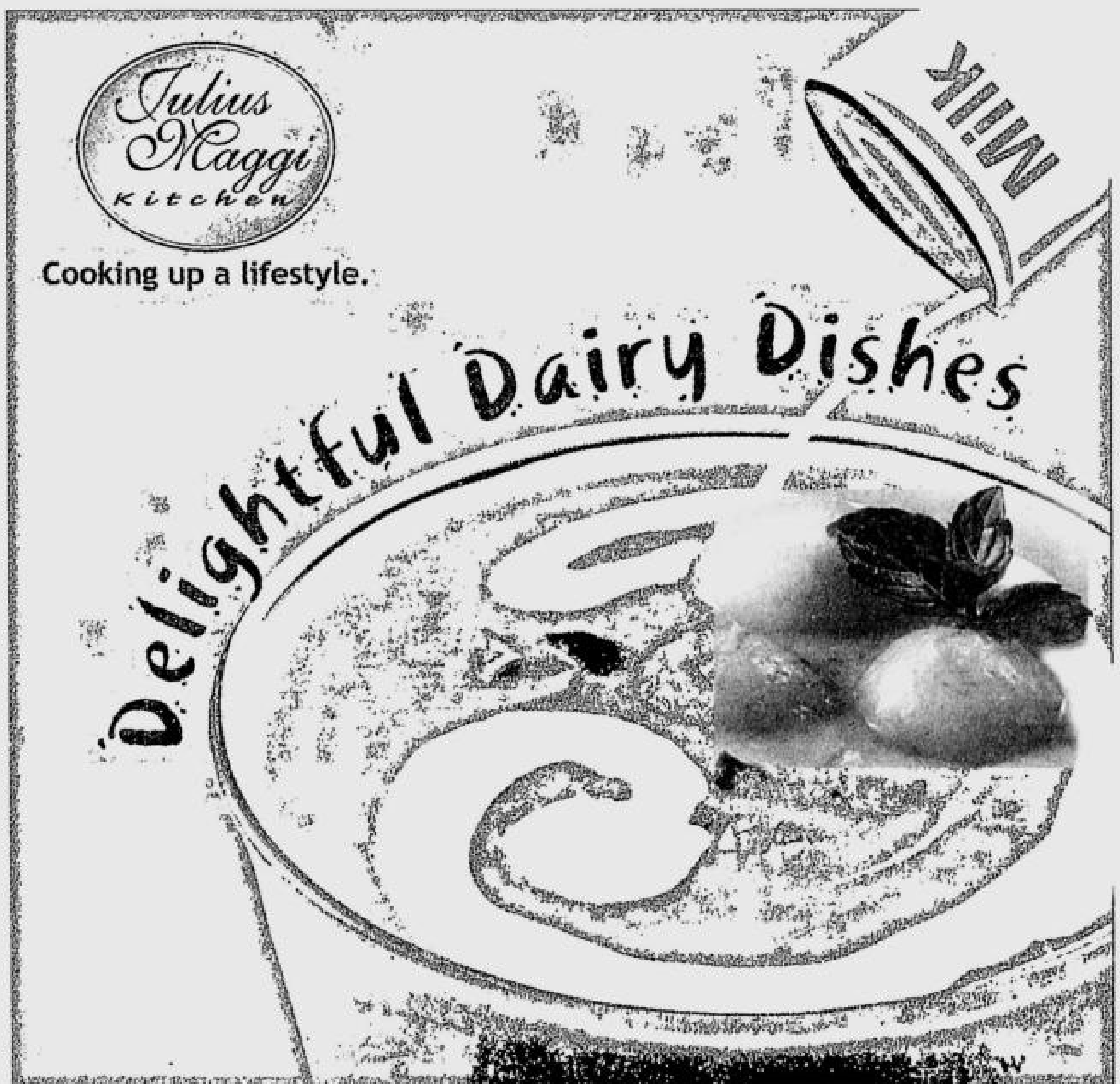


ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO



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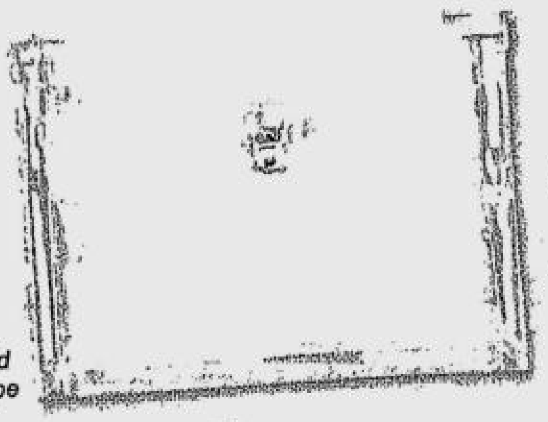
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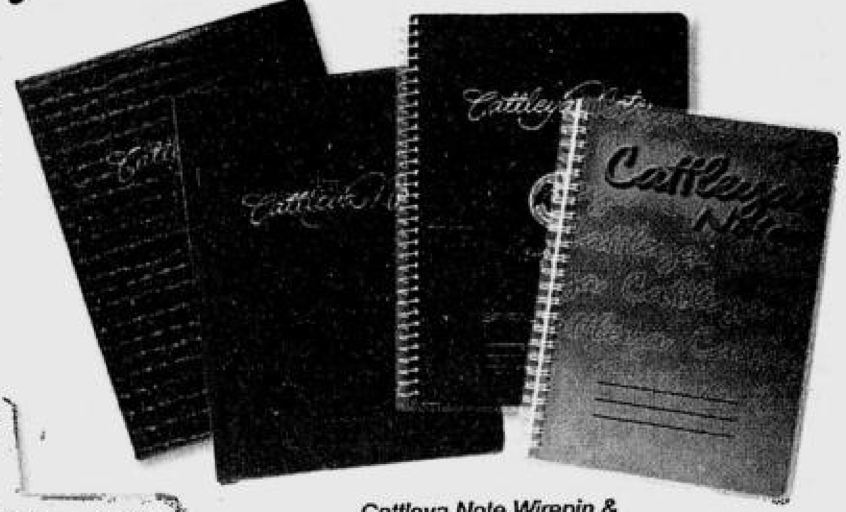
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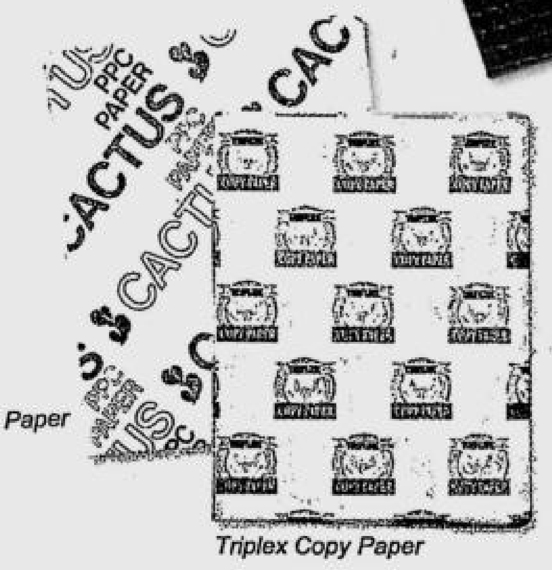
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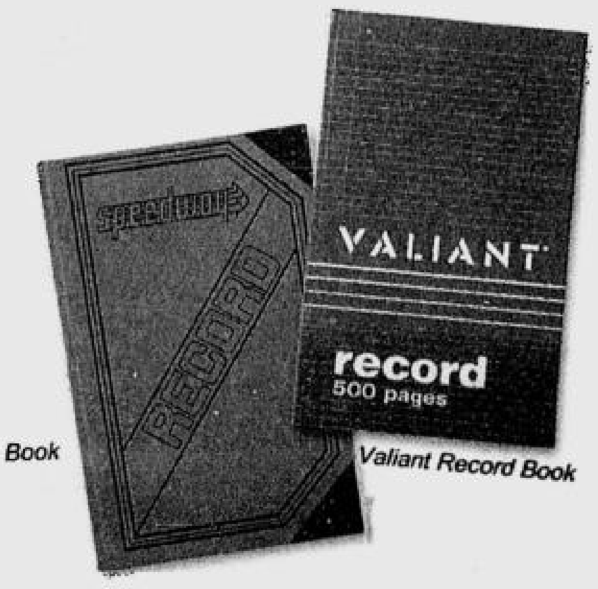
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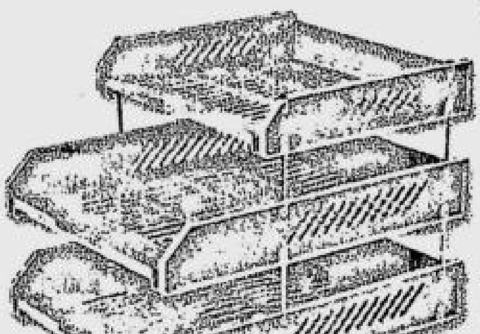
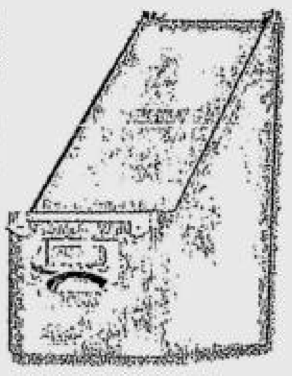
☑ create desk space


Sysmax Paper Tray


Seagull File Organizer

☑ label everything

Capitol Stationery Label Master

☑ keep things in one place

Garjel Cosmetic Kit

Tuscany School Bag w/ Trolley

☑ sort & file

Security File Folder

Best Buy File Pocket Folder

Out with the old, in with

National Book Store
The country's national bookstore.

A 'deluscious' pit stop

Text by James P. Ong
Contributor
Photos by Johnny Villena

THE DREAM existed, the woman who inspired her did not. Chef Bambi Sy Gobio says she remembers growing up in the 1970s with Betty Crocker's classic picture cookbook, which her mother had given her when she was six years old. She thumbed through its pages until they were dog-eared and stained, and committed to heart recipes formulated by America's most famous fictional character.

She also remembers family get-togethers on weekends, helping her mom in the kitchen, baking her first cake when she was eight years old ("Betty Crocker's hot milk sponge. She covered it with Smuckers strawberry jam."), eat-outs at Tivoli Grill and other foodie places around Metro Manila.

"When I was a kid, when we would go to my *lola*'s house and the oldies would talk, I would just sit in a corner and read my *lola*'s cookbooks over and over until I memorized them, and they didn't even have pictures!" With a childhood so exposed to food and eating, there was no question she would end up in the restaurant industry.

Bambi Sy Gobio is her own Betty Crocker, whipping up delights in classic cookbook fashion

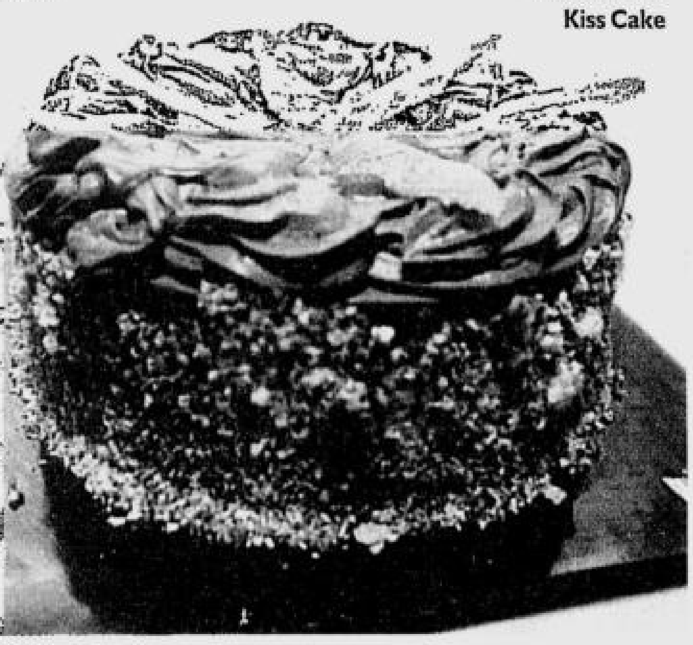
Dementia

Gobio is the chef and owner of Kooky and Luscious, a pasta-and-pastry shop that opened four months ago in the booming area of North Greenhills near the ICA-Xavier School gridlock.

Chances are, if you've found yourself stuck in Ortigas traffic, you would notice her small rectangular space with the orange interiors. It's the one right under a Her Bench billboard.

"I really want it to be a place that you can pass by on your way home, buy a pasta sauce, get a cake, and you have a meal," Gobio, 31, says. It's also a place where you can hang out while avoiding traffic—there's a long table for eight people—and sip the chef-recommended Belgian hot chocolate while browsing through the latest imported magazines.

VOLTAIRE'S
Kiss Cake



She also sells ensaimada with quezo de bola, three kinds of patés (chicken liver, wild mushroom, roast duck rilletes), the most interesting cheesecakes (green tea, *ube*, strawberry citrus), classic '70s cakes like canonigo, brazo de mercedes and a must-try— strawberry dacquoise.

"I can't really be too experimental here. Unlike in the States where we had to be constantly creative and think of new dishes, here I find I have to stick with 'classic' favorites or else people will think it's too weird." Still, there is a touch of playfulness in her best-selling chocolate truffle cake, which comes by the odd name of "Dementia."

CIA training

As soon as she got her degree in hotel and restaurant administration from the University of the Philippines, Gobio flew to New York to study in the famed Culinary Institute of America.

"My mom would kill me if I say this but it's really overrated, I didn't really learn anything new, maybe because I've been cooking since I was a kid. There were times when they would teach us how to cook Chinese food and I would think, 'that's Chinese food?' They taught us how to cook tempura—but their batter was too thick!"

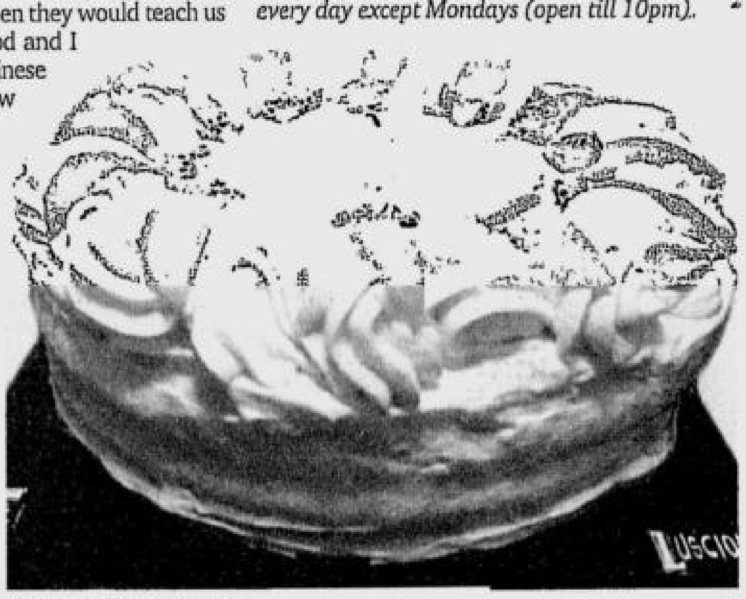
Eventually, she found work as a pastry chef in Bouley, the famous restaurant of Manhattan cooking legend David Bouley. Matters of the heart, however, dictated where she would be living and so she also got an on-and-off stint with the Four Seasons Hotel in Toronto up to two years ago.

In 1998, during a brief stay in Manila, she worked as food editor in "Good Housekeeping" magazine and, last year, she wrote the menu for one of Manila's most-talked about restaurants— Fidel, the trendy bistro in Malate that serves French-Moroccan cuisine. In a matter of months, she would decide to put up her own place, too. As a side dish, she also works as food editor and resident food reviewer for "Metro" magazine.

"In a lot of restaurants the owners just invest money but they don't know what's happening, they're not there," Gobio says when asked why she thinks some restaurants in Manila have such short shelf lives. "I'm not prissy, I don't have to wait for three people to clean my kitchen. I can wash pots and pans by myself, thank you."

And more, it would seem. Gobio is a one-woman team in Kooky and Luscious. Hers is a hectic and committed lifestyle Betty Crocker would never have imagined.

Kooky and Luscious is at City Center Building, 338 Ortigas Avenue, North Greenhills (phone 705-1512). Open from 12nn to 12mn every day except Mondays (open till 10pm).



MANGO Cream Cake

STRAWBERRY
Dacquoise

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MON.- FRI. (8 AM - 7 PM) / SAT. (8 AM - 5 PM)

Century TUNA
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CULINARY MEET 2003

Whip up your cooking talent in the 1st ever Century Tuna's Culinary Challenge!

March 29 - 30, 2003
Megatrade Hall 3, SM Megamall,
Mandaluyong City

JOIN NOW & ATTACH ONE(1) LABEL OF CENTURY TUNA

MECHANICS:

I. THE COMPETITION
The Century Tuna "Culinary Meet 2003" is a cooking competition open to all residents in the Greater Manila Area (GMA). The competition has two (2) major divisions:

A. Amateur Division - open to home-makers, non-professional cooks, enthusiasts, etc. not currently employed in the food industry.
B. Student Division-open to students presently enrolled in Hotel and Restaurant Management and related courses such as Food Technology and Nutrition; not working as part-time employee in the industry.

II REQUIREMENTS
• Send an original recipe (not previously entered in any contest, publication or exhibit) using Century Tuna in oil or water as the main ingredient.

• All recipes must also make use of at least one of the following products: Hunts Tomato Sauce, Kraft Cheesemelt, Kraft Mayo, Home Pride Pasta, Jolly (canned vegetables, soups & cooking oil)), Pillsbury All-Purpose Flour & Cornstarch.

• Recipe must be typewritten in double-spaced format on a white letter-size bond paper and printed in two (2) copies

• Entries must be sealed in a white envelope together with a label of any of the following Century Tuna variants: Century Tuna Flakes in Vegetable Oil, and Hot & Spicy; Century Tuna Solid in Vegetable Oil and Water; Century Tuna Chunks Spanish Style in Vegetable Oil and Water.

Entries must be mailed to
EVENT VISIONS, INC.
P.O Box 2245 Makati Central Post Office, 1262 Makati City

III. COMPETITION THEME AND PARTICIPANTS
A. Amateur Division:
TUNA PASTA TUNA or CENTURY TUNA RICE TOPPINGS
- composed of one (1) participant per entry
DEADLINE OF ENTRIES: March 7, 2003

B. Student Division
Category 1: APPETIZER PLATTER
(6 kinds of appetizer with 5 pieces each) - composed of a single team with one (1) member assigned to execute and three (3) other members to assist in the presentation

Category 2: TURNOVERS AND POTPIES
Composed of a single team with (2) members
DEADLINE OF ENTRIES: February 25, 2003

Note. Only one (1) team per category and per school is allowed to join.

IV. GRAND FINALS
Participants in the Grand Finals will be informed through telegram and registered mail They will compete through an on-the-spot cooking demo to be held at the Megatrade Hall 3, SM Megamall on March 29, 2003 for the Student Division & March 30, 2003 for the Amateur Division.

The following judging criteria will be used for both divisions.
Innovation - 20 pts.
Plating and Presentation - 20 pts
Preparation - 10pts.
Taste - 50 pts.

CULINARY MEET 2003 PRIZES

A. AMATEUR DIVISION

GRAND PRIZE : Php 20,000.00 cash plus,Php 1,000 worth of Century products, gift packs and plaque
1st RUNNER -UP: Php 10,000.00 cash plus, Php 1,000 worth of Century products, gift packs and plaque
2nd RUNNER-UP: Php 5,000.00 cash plus,Php 1,000 worth of Century products, gift packs and plaque
3rd RUNNER-UP : Php 2,000.00 cash plus,Php 1,000 worth of Century products, gift packs and plaque

B. STUDENT DIVISION (CATEGORY 1 & 2)

GRAND PRIZE: Php 10,000.00 cash plus,Php 1,000 worth of Century products, gift packs and plaques
1st RUNNER -UP: Php 5,000.00 cash plus,Php 1,000 worth of Century products, gift packs and plaques
2nd RUNNER-UP: Php 2,500.00 cash plus ,Php 1,000 worth of Century products, gift packs and plaques

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APPLICATION FORM

Name:
Age:
Home Address:
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Course/Year(if studying):
Birthdate:
Occupation(if employed):
Title of entry:
(please attach entry)
DIVISION (Please check appropriate box)
☐ A. AMATEUR - 'PASTA TUNA PASTA' OR 'CENTURY RICE TOPPINGS'
☐ B. STUDENT - 'CENTURY TUNA FUN DINING' __Category 1: 'Appetizer Platter' __Category 2: 'Turnovers and Potpies'